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Toronto metro

JAYS MAGIC NUMBER: 8

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2015 | High 21°C/Low 12°C Sun!

FESTIVE COLOURS

Thousands come out for annual Muslim celebration

metroNEWS

A chameleon perches on 13-year-old Laylah's head Thursday at the Muslim Association of Canada's 40th annual Eid Festival at Enercare Centre. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

FILMMAKERS' DOZEN

12 flicks to catch in the city this weekend

metroMOVIES

Jays fans scooped by scalpers

SPORTS

Leagues doing little as ticket prices jump on resell sites

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Did you get Blue Jays playoff tickets yesterday?

If you were one of thousands left behind, there's largely one group to thank — scalpers. And one expert says sports leagues and teams aren't doing everything they can to shut them down.

It wouldn't be overly complex to at least make a dent in the resell market, said Vijay Setlur, a sports marketing professor at York University.

Forcing people to enter codes when they buy online — which would prevent Internet bots from scooping up large swaths of seats — and easing demand by making more tickets available are just a couple of options, he said.

Paperless ticketing is another, though it could also hurt legitimate resellers and people looking to transfer seats to friends.

Maya Fitzpatrick is one of the many fans who got left out in the ticket-scramble cold, despite spending two hours working the computer and the phones in hopes of striking gold.

"I called more than 100 times," she said, noting she'll likely pay the marked-up price set by scalpers. "It's going to cost me a fortune."

Tickets in the 500 level were released at a price of $55, with the best seats on offer for $425. Hours later, at least one upper-deck seat was being sold for $200 and field-level tickets were more than $700 on resell sites.

Dan Lytwyn, meanwhile, struck it lucky in the ticket frenzy.

He was only 5 the last time the Jays went to the playoffs, and he was determined to be there this time around.

"I lined up on two computers and my cellphone," he said after securing two tickets.

"It was such an impossibility, but I'm so happy I avoided facing scalpers."

Friday, September 25 to Sunday, September 27, 2015

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

This pink diamond could be yours for about $28 million. **World**

Big idea, tiny creations: this art comes in boxes

OPEN FIELD COLLECTIVE

With residents' permission, artists set up lawn displays

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

You love art. You don't always have enough time to go check it out at galleries. How about arts coming right to your doorsteps?

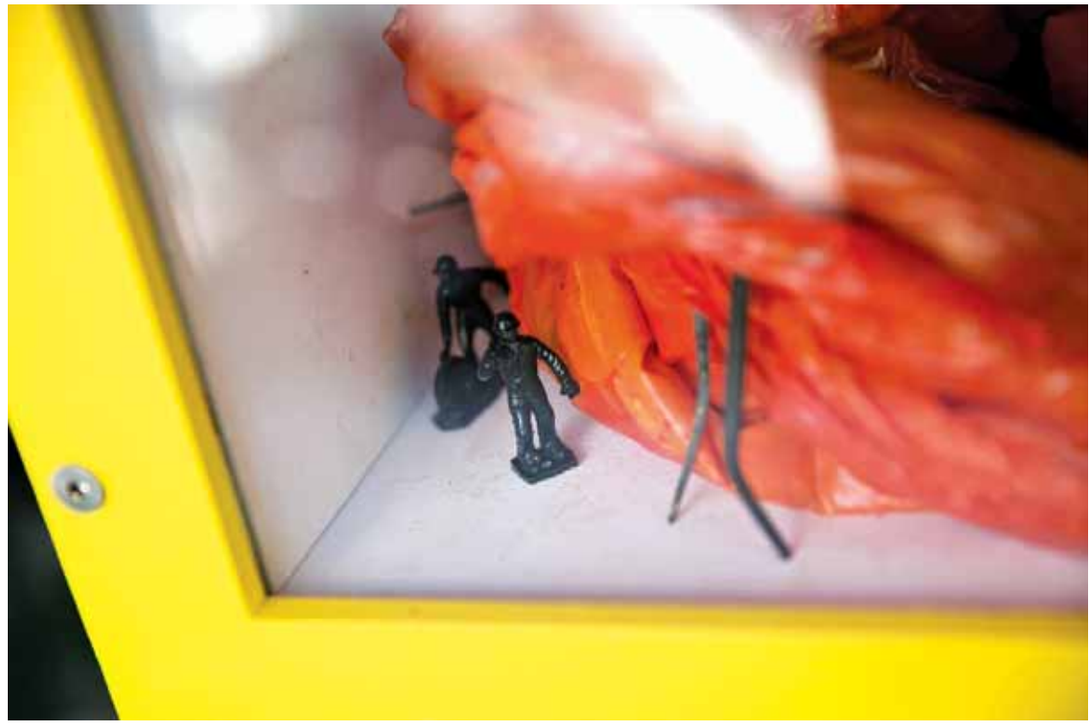
Two ambitious local artists are trying to do exactly that. With a resident's permission, a box containing a miniature piece of art will be planted right at a lawn beside the residential street for anyone to see.

"Basically it's a way to bring contemporary artwork right to the streets of Toronto," said Erika James, a multimedia artist working in text, sculpture and installations.

"It's photography, print work, painting or text work, anything that we feel will foster a positive reaction from the public."

James teamed up with fellow artist Scott McDermid to create Open Field Collective, a project whose main goal is help community members interact more with artworks. With the collaboration from local artists, the volunteer-based project has so far installed eight boxes in the Bloor West and Parkdale neighbourhoods.

Some of the artworks in the boxes were made by James and McDermid themselves, but many more are from well-known artists like Robert Hengeveld and Rochelle Rubinstein.



Small but intriguing: one of the miniature exhibits. This one's on Borden Street, north of College. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

The idea is to place a piece of art inside the box — nearly two-feet high, an average height to the eye-level for even kids to be able to peer into the box. The art installation is rotated after six weeks, to allow more arts on display and make the project more diverse.

One of the biggest surprises for the artists is the reception the project received from residents. There hasn't been any resistance to place artworks on people's front yards.

> **We are just trying to make Toronto a more fun place to live.**
> Erika James

"Actually every time we're installing a box, other neighbours come by and are like: 'Can I have one of these at my place, too?'" said James. "It's been amazing."

Part of the expansion plan looks to partner with King Edward Public School. Kids and their teachers would be making artwork themselves, and have it on display in boxes at the school's property.

But there will definitely be more of these boxes popping up in many more neighbourhoods soon, said James. "We are just trying to make Toronto a more fun place to live," she said.

BLOORDALE

Wriggle your way to Laneway Crawl this weekend

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

The best way to see Toronto this weekend? Get crawling.

The Laneway Project and the David Suzuki Foundation are hosting a pair of municipally-minded crawls for curious residents on Sunday.

You can head to Bloordale for a tour of the neighbourhood's laneways, starting at 2 p.m. The event will showcase the potential for programming in Toronto's alleys and side streets. Activities include mural painting, musical performances and even pay-what-you-can haircuts.

If you prefer to crawl on the grass, the annual Homegrown Park Crawl starts at Trinity Bellwoods at noon.

Now in its third year, the event will take participants from Bellwoods to Christie Pits, stopping at some of the smaller parks along the way.

Each stop will feature various art performances and food stations by local vendors like Pizzeria Libretto and the Two-Bite Saloon.

BACKGROUND

Proceeds from the event go to the David Suzuki Foundation's Homegrown National Park Project, which aims to bring nature to the city.

FOREST HILL

Locals win first round of tree spat

Those opposed to the construction of a large home on a ravine lot in Forest Hill were elated Thursday after the Toronto and East York committee of adjustment refused a property owner's request for variances.

Some 22 residents, and the city's forestry department, had objected to the plan because of the loss of trees and canopy coverage.

29

Neighbourhood opponents said the project would involve clear-cutting 29 mature trees.

"We look forward to seeing the revisions of the plans," said Lucianna Ciccocioppo, a neighbour who led opposition to the project at 256 Chaplin Cres.

She told the panel the proposal "should be a case study in how not to engage the community in a building project," adding that Thursday was the first time she met the owner, builder and architect. "That says a lot."

Khosrow Choubineh, the owner, said he is planning to appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board. He maintains the urban forestry report "exaggerated" the number of trees that would have to be removed.

The city staff report said at least 14 would be cut, nine for the proposed driveway and five for the two-storey home. Six trees would also be "injured."

"These numbers are based on the applicant's arborist report," Norman DeFraeye, supervisor of the city's urban forestry department, wrote in email. "It is expected that these numbers will change as more detailed plans are prepared by the applicant in response to city concerns. It is our intent to mitigate the losses and injuries."

Ciccocioppo said that if Choubineh appeals, "we're certainly going to see what our next options are. We've had overwhelming support going door-to-door. We'll see what the next step is."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Eid: A festival in photos

Toronto's 40th annual Eid Festival saw thousands of people make their way to the Enercare Centre on Thursday to enjoy a day-long offering of entertainment and activities, aimed at celebrating Eid Al Adha, a significant annual Islamic observance often celebrated with prayer and social gatherings.

LIZ BEDDALL METRO

Entertainment

Right, Yousif, 2, blows bubbles into the air at the Muslim Association of Canada's 40th annual Eid Festival.
Below, Adham and his sister Zynev enjoy a spin on one of a collection of rides available to the public at the festival.

Family

Issam and his two-year-old boy Mohamed at the Muslim Association of Canada's 40th annual Eid Festival.

Culture

A vibrant array of apparel and décor was on display a the MAC Eid Festival bazaar.

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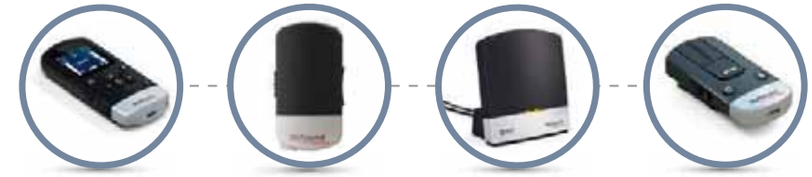

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Former ombudsman André Marin.
RICHARD BRENNAN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Watchdog calls for end to carding

STREET CHECKS

Critics say the practice lacks sufficient data to prove value

There is insufficient evidence to back up the police claim that "carding" is a necessary tool, and the detrimental effects of the policing practice "are simply too great to justify," Ontario's government watchdog says in a submission to the province released Thursday.

If Premier Kathleen Wynne's government truly wants to reform the controversial tool, also known as street checks, it must first obtain "independent, objective, evidence-based data" to show how it achieves concrete, crime-solving results, says former Ontario ombudsman André Marin.

"(The province) should not simply accept the subjective and anecdotal protestations of its policing partners," Marin writes in his submission to the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, in which he does not call for an outright ban but does insist on strict limitations on the practice — including a prohibition on carding anyone younger than 18.

The Ontario government is currently reviewing carding with the aim of establishing provincewide regulations on when and why police stop and document members of the public. A series of Star investigations has shown that in Toronto, the controversial policing tool disproportionately targets black and brown men, and new data obtained from Peel Regional Police this week show black people in Brampton and Mississauga are three times more likely to be stopped by police than white people.

Marin added his voice to criticism of the review, calling it "flawed" from the outset for describing street checks as "a necessary and valuable tool" in its online discussion document, without having crime data to back up the statement.

"I remain unconvinced, based on the available information, that there is a public interest purpose sufficient to override the infringement of the right to be free from the arbitrary detention that street checks represent," writes Marin.

Community Safety Minister Yasir Naqvi has repeatedly said random and discriminatory stops must end, but critics have questioned why the province did not seek to obtain more information demonstrating the efficacy of the practice to begin with; the ministry did not ask Ontario police forces for data illustrating how street checks have helped solve crime or made communities safer.

Marin, whose term as Ontario's ombudsman ended earlier this month, made 25 recommendations for safeguards to minimize the infringement on individual civil rights and salvage confidence in Ontario's police. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CRIME

Police hunt masked robbers

Toronto police are seeking the public's help in identifying two men who violently robbed an elderly man at a west-end convenience store.

The two masked men entered the store near Queen Street West and Bathurst Street around 4 a.m. on Sept. 15. They beat an employee before making off with cash and cigarettes.

The suspects are described as two males in their 30s and around six feet tall.. One is white with a medium build and short brown hair while the other is black with short black hair.

In security camera footage of the incident, the two men can be seen holding the clerk in a headlock while punching him in the head and ribs.

The 73-year-old victim suffered several broken ribs and internal bleeding and was rushed to hospital once emergency responders arrived. He is still receiving treatment in hospital for his injuries almost a week later.

"It's unusual these days to remain in the hospital that long unless it was a very serious problem," said Staff Insp. Mike Earl. "That shows the seriousness of his injuries."

The incident may have been an intended attack given the circumstances, police said.

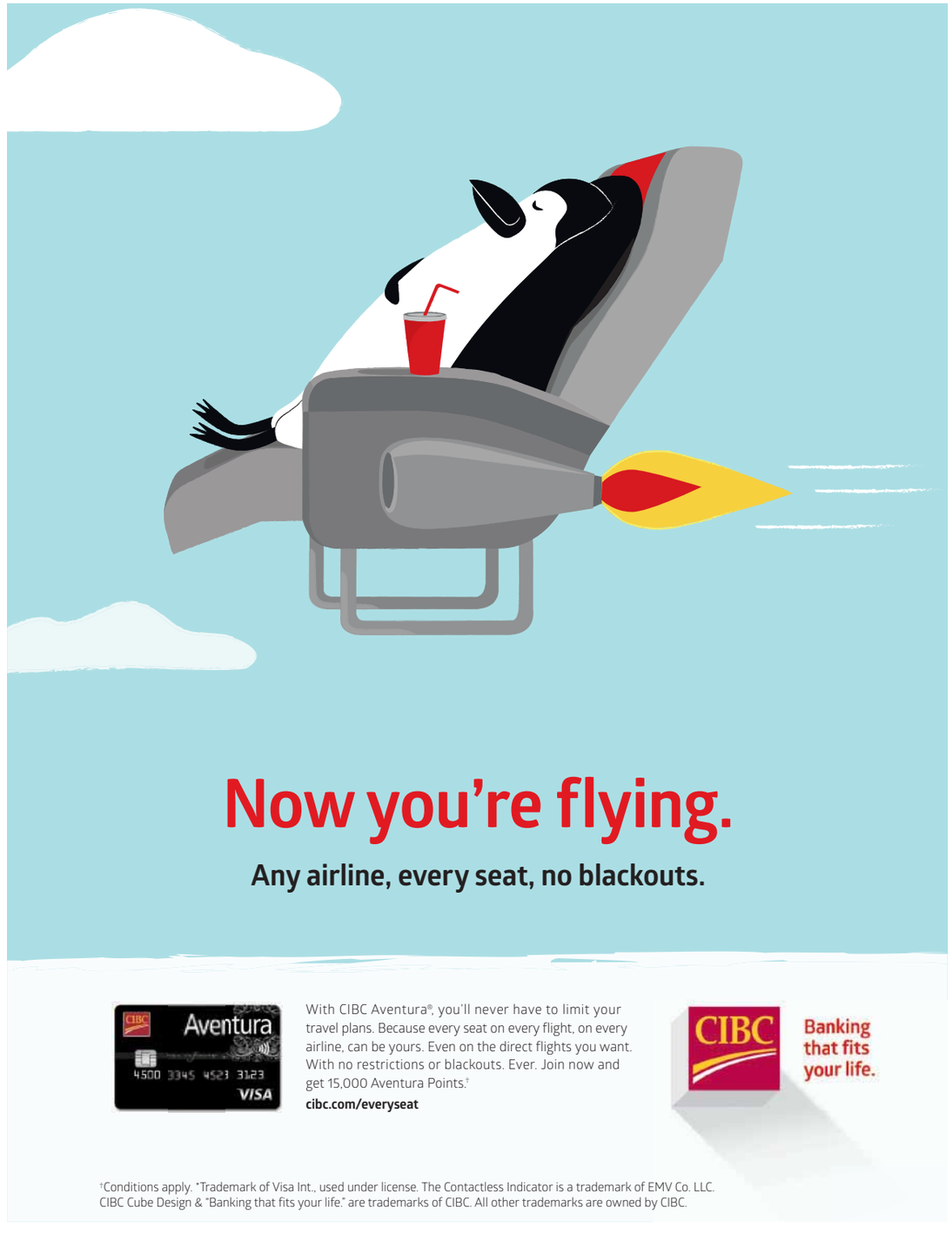
Anyone who can help police identify the men on the video are asked to call investigators at 416-808-7350 or leave an anonymous tip with Crime Stoppers by calling 416-222-TIPS.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Pedestrian hit in crash

A man in his 70s was struck by a car early Thursday near the Queensway and Glendale Ave.

Toronto paramedics said they received a call around 6:36 a.m. from a bystander. The man was transported to a local trauma centre with life-threatening head injuries, and the road was closed until about noon.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE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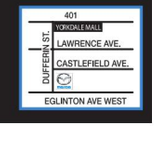

The portion of land where the proposed TTC bus garage will be located, near Kennedy Road and McNicoll Avenue in Scarborough. GOOGLE MAPS

Councillor probes cost of bus garage

CITY HALL

Neighbours don't want controversial $181M project

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Scarborough-Agincourt's councillor is not willing to let the fight against a TTC bus garage die off easily.

Jim Karygiannis has asked the council's executive committee to provide a detailed financial analysis of the $181-million budget planned for the controversial McNicoll Bus Garage project.

"It doesn't make any sense," said Karygiannis, who has been at the forefront of a community push against the construction of the garage near Kennedy and McNicoll in Scarborough.

The councillor compares pricing to a similar project in Oakville, where, in 2011, a project for construction of a garage for 175 buses cost $45 million. The TTC project would house 250 buses, which is about a 25 per cent increase, and shouldn't cost that much money, he said.

"How can I explain to my constituents that they got this project they never wanted, and then it cost this outrageous amount of money?" he said.

He had asked for TTC CEO Andy Byford to city manager Peter Wallace to report the financial details of this project to next week's council meeting. Instead, the two will present the particulars to the executive committee on Oct. 20.

Both Karygiannis and residents in his ward — led by the Coalition Against the McNicoll Bus Garage — have lost the battle to force the TTC to move the garage elsewhere.

> **Bottom line is I don't want this thing here.**
> Jim Karygiannis, city councillor

They claim the area is not ideal for such a project, being home to four senior homes, a high school and a community centre. But both the Transit Project Assessment and the provincial Environmental Assessment Report have given the TTC a green light to proceed.

Construction of the garage is expected to start in 2017, and be operational by 2019.

"Bottom line is I don't want this thing here," said Karygiannis. "People are furious that this thing was rammed down their throats."

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3. Please bring copies of your resume to the Career Event

Housing on the minds of mayors

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Big city bosses not happy with federal leaders

Mayor Matt Brown, of London, Ont., left; Toronto Mayor John Tory; and Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson lead colleagues from Hamilton and Kitchener and their staffs to a YWCA housing project in Toronto on Thursday. The big-city mayors later called on federal parties to improve their pledges for affordable housing. DAVID RIDER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto's affordable housing shortage is threatening employers' ability to attract workers, Mayor John Tory said Thursday, demanding that federal parties offer solutions before the Oct. 19 election.

Tory's comments came after strategizing with counterparts from Vancouver, Edmonton, Halifax, London and Kitchener on how to get affordable and social housing on the campaign radar.

Almost every day, Tory said, businesspeople warn that the costs of shelter — the average detached Toronto house was priced at more than $1 million last month — along with transit challenges are making it harder to recruit and keep staff.

"Businesses are figuring out that this is not sustainable," Tory told reporters after the mayors' meeting. "This will become more and more of a competitive disadvantage and a problem for jobs, if it's allowed to continue."

The mayors' voices are being heard like never before. They made note of the major promises parties have made on transit and infrastructure funding since the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) gathering in February.

But they are not satisfied with how the federal parties have dealt so far with issues such as helping municipalities combat homelessness, providing or supporting subsidized housing for lowest-income residents, or incentives to the private sector to build housing for people with working-class incomes.

"It's basically been forgotten in the election to date," said Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, chair of FCM's big city mayors' caucus.

Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson said the three major parties have promised parts of his wish list — creation of new social housing units, rental market stimulus, use of federal lands, commitment to renew and expand $1.7 billion worth of expiring CMHC mortgages, and a "Housing First" homelessness strategy.

> **It's basically been forgotten in the election to date.**
> Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson

"I feel like Goldilocks right now, except all three bowls of porridge are cold," he said. "If (only) somebody can step forward and heat it up to 'just right.' They've got about a month to convince the mayors and Canadians that they get it."

On its www.citiescan.ca website, FCM compares parties' promises and more. On Thursday, however, the mayors weren't prepared to say if they will use their newfound power to tell voters which parties have the best policies.

"We're not going to shy away from making sure that voters understand how important housing is and which parties are making serious commitments," is all Vancouver's Robertson would say.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MARKHAM

'Too little, too late' for daycare

A non-profit daycare facing eviction from its long-time home at the Markham Civic Centre has been offered a one-year lease extension.

But the offer from city staff late last week was "too little, too late," said Kristina Drosos, chair of TLC Daycare's parent board.

"An extension at this late stage would be feasible if we knew where we could go," she said in an interview. "But without that, we just couldn't see how we could continue."

In a news release being issued Friday, the daycare said it will close at the end of the month when its original 25-year lease expires.

Dozens of parents and children from the daycare filled Markham City Council chambers Sept. 9 to plead for a lease extension of at least a year after a request to city staff in August was rebuffed.

The parents also asked councillors to reopen discussions to move the daycare to another municipal property.

But the city's offer was "for one year (only)" and was contingent on the daycare dropping its quest to move to Warden House.

The city has maintained that it has done everything it could to help the daycare and that the city is not to blame for its demise.

The ongoing uncertainty has meant that most of the daycare's families have found alternative arrangements. Of the 57 children at the centre last month, just 18 remain, meaning the daycare is now operating at a deficit, she said.

The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care said municipalities should be protecting them, not issuing eviction orders.

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Workers are dwarfed beside two boring machines, which will soon begin tunnelling toward Yonge Street. BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TRANSIT

Eglinton Crosstown LRT delayed

The $5.3-billion Eglinton Crosstown LRT — believed to be the largest infrastructure project in Ontario's history — will open a year later than Metrolinx has been promising for years.

The 19-kilometre LRT, which was supposed to begin running late in 2020, is now tracking to open in September 2021, Metrolinx CEO Bruce McCuaig told a news conference Thursday morning.

The precise reasons aren't clear. McCuaig acknowledged the provincial agency had expected to deliver the project earlier. But in talking to the bidders about the construction and community needs, the date was changed.

Later, Metrolinx issued a statement attributing the change to work "done to enhance the bid documents."

The scope of the project was changed based on the decision not to include the replacement of the Scarborough RT, according to the statement. That, in turn, affected the tendering process.

A statement from the office of Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca later Thursday said the Crosstown wouldn't operate until 2021 "to mitigate disruption to the local community and infrastructure as much as possible."

In 2012, the TTC warned that Metrolinx's aggressive timeline would lead to severe construction-related disruptions to communities and traffic along Eglinton. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Coun. down with Town and Gown

GOVERNANCE

Student liaison would benefit the city as well, Mihevc argues

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Coun. Joe Mihevc pointed to the problems at the Parkside Student Residence as one reason to act. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

If a motion by Coun. Joe Mihevc comes to fruition, students will be getting a louder voice at Toronto City Hall.

Mihevc is pushing the city to create a "Town and Gown" committee. Similar groups in other cities, including Waterloo and London, act as liaisons between government and students.

"Students are researchers, future leaders and builders of the city. They're also voters," Mihevc said. "They're not adequately represented at city hall right now, and this could be another avenue for them."

According to Mihevc, the committee would be mutually advantageous. Students would have greater access to city officials and resources, and the city could avail itself of the research being done at post-secondary institutions.

"We want that brain trust," the Ward 21 councillor said. "They've got the best ideas in the world, whether it's architecture, urban planning or building bicycle infrastructure."

In Waterloo, the Town and Gown board consists of students, city officials and administrators from the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University.

The committee recently finished an analysis of student housing needs, something Mihevc said is relevant to Toronto given the plight of renters at the Parkside Student Residence. Tenants arrived in town this fall to find their units unfinished.

"Sometimes students don't know how to use city hall or who to call in these situations," Mihevc said. "If we had a close relationship with them, we could have maybe shut it down or applied our bylaw inspectors to enforce building codes."

Mihevc said he's expecting a staff report by early 2016.

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Peanut Mall

Downtown Toronto
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230 Queen St. E.
672 Gerrard St. E.
1484 Queen St. W.
588 Parliament St.
316 Parliament St.

Uptown Toronto
1818 Eglinton Ave. W, Unit 2
2032 Weston Rd.
1267 St. Clair Ave. W.

East York
642 Danforth Ave.
2129 Danforth Ave
2895 Danforth Ave.
747 Don Mills Rd., Unit 22B
1004 Pape Ave.
1094 Victoria Park Ave.

Etobicoke
2456 Lakeshore Blvd. W.
30A Rexdale Blvd.
1062 Albion Rd, Unit A
1379 Lawrence Ave. W.
4920 Dundas St. W.

Scarborough
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2667 Eglinton Ave. E, Unit 1
2887 Lawrence Ave. E.
4352 Kingston Rd, Unit 7B
1515 Birchmount Rd.

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High Point Mall
Mississauga Market Place
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Mississauga
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Heartland Town Centre
Square One
110 Matheson Blvd.

Newmarket
Upper Canada Mall
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Bayview Village Shopping Centre
Fairview Mall
Shops at Don Mills
Yorkdale Mall
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865 York Mills Rd.
2899 Steeles Ave. W

Oakville
Oakville Place
250 Wyecroft Rd.
760 Pacific Rd.
2150 Winston Park Dr.

Oshawa
Harmony Plaza
Oshawa Centre

Pickering
Pickering Town Centre
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Richmond Hill
Hillcrest Mall
155 East Beaver Creek Rd.

Scarborough
Scarborough Town Centre
Warden/Eglinton Power Centre
1184 Kennedy Rd.
2281 Kingston Rd.

Stouffville
Stouffville Walmart Centre

Thornhill
The Promenade
7040 Yonge St.

Toronto
Dufferin Mall
Eaton Centre
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The Stock Exchange Building
Yonge & Eglinton
25 York St.
361 Queen St. W
455 Danforth Ave.
720 King St. W
727 Bloor St. W
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No-logo pair scores big

APPAREL

Sportswear entrepreneurs focus on style over branding

When childhood pals Adam Mintz and Charlie Friedmann decided to produce a line of unbranded athletic clothing, but they didn't plan on coming up with an eye-catching trademark.

"We wanted something for inside the shirts and the website," Friedmann said of the infinity-flavoured design a freelancer produced for Athletes Collective.

"We were conflicted because this logo looks kind of cool on stuff and we didn't want to put the logo on the shirts, because we are athletes defined by our actions, not a logo across our chests."

Ultimately, the Toronto-based duo stuck to their vision: make sportswear defined by fit, fabric and performance rather than branding or spokespeople. It's clearly a different approach to athletic wear that has grown to a $39 billion (U.S.) industry, fuelled largely by brand name logos like Under Armour or Nike.

Charlie Friedmann, left, and Adam Mintz, the founders of Athletes Collective.
COLE BURSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

They sourced fabric and manufacturing locally and launched online last summer using athletic friends as models. Their T-shirts come in four colours and are either plain or feature a single sports-related word, such as "#Hustle," "Athlete," and "Run."

"Our focus is the everyday athlete and we wanted our brand and the clothing to be very relatable," said creative mind Mintz, who previously worked in fashion and brand consulting.

"The sports apparel market is very inspirational. The Nike, the Under Armour commercials: fun to watch, but not really relatable. We don't train five, six days a week. We're not going to be pro athletes. We'd love to be the alternative to what's out there and say 'You don't have to look like that and you don't have to spend that much money.'"

That "from the people, for the people" approach is "a page forward or a page back in the persuasive advertising handbook," said University of Ottawa marketing professor Michael Mulvey.

"One way to make a persuasive message work is to help people identify with a typical consumer or customer ... There a lot of consumers out there that realize that they aren't Sidney Crosby or whatever former soccer player; they're comfortable with their own skill set."

Even the no-logo concept is itself a brand, added University of Toronto marketing professor Pankaj Aggarwal.

"Branding is not just about a name; it is what people believe in," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A gingerbread house in the store. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RETAIL

Fall gets festive

Summer is only just over, and already one high-street department store has turned its focus to Christmas.

Step into the basement of Yonge Street's Hudson's Bay flagship shop and you'll be surrounded by a winter wonderland of twinkly fairy lights, toy Santas and candy canes.

Even for a major chain notorious for jumping on the yuletide bandwagon long before winter, the Christmas decorations are up very early.

This year, the Bay is selling Christmas merchandise "two weeks earlier" than last year, according to an employee tasked with organizing the festive layout.

Santa Claus has come to town. No word on whether he has made his list or checked it twice.

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Gay dating service ads pulled from TTC

ADVERTISING

Transit bosses say material drew customer complaints

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

The owners of a dating website for gay men are looking for answers after their ads were removed from the TTC last week.

Ads for Squirt.org have been running in and around Wellesley Station since June. The posters recently began running inside subway trains, prompting at least 10 complaints from riders, TTC officials said.

The ads, which feature shirtless men embracing, were subsequently removed from TTC property.

A detail of one removed ad. COURTESY PINK TRIANGLE PRESS

"The ad was taken down as it promoted sex in public places, which is against the law," said TTC spokesman Danny Nicholson.

Squirt is owned by Pink Triangle Press, which also publishes Daily Xtra.

The company's marketing director, Andrew Nolan, acknowledged the site contains a section for cruising but denied the ads promote illegal sex.

"Yelp also has cruising listings, but I very much doubt the TTC would remove a Yelp ad," he said.

"We run ads in the U.K., the Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand and we've never had any problems," Nolan said. "So to have them removed in a diverse city like Toronto was disappointing."

Nolan said the TTC would not provide the content of the complaints against the ads. Without that information, he declined to speculate whether homophobia played a role.

However, Pink Triangle's digital business director, Attila Szatmari, questioned why other ads with sexual overtones were allowed and not Squirt's.

"Nobody is complaining about the Tommy Hilfiger underwear ads, but once you see two guys or three guys then it's no longer acceptable," he told Daily Xtra.

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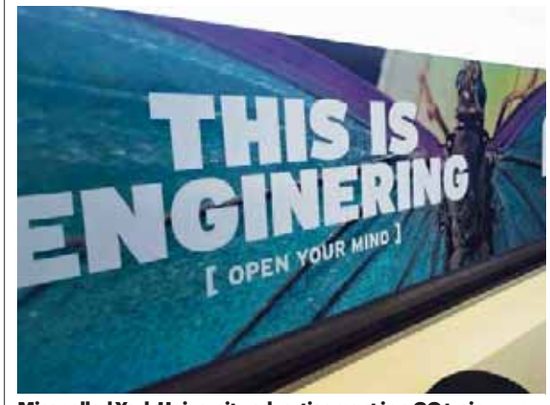

Misspelled York University advertisement in a GO train. REDDIT

OOPS

Engin-error causes a stir for university

"This is Enginering," an ad placed by York University on several GO trains Thursday morning read.

One thing is for sure — nobody was mistaking it for the English department, with an error like that.

Thankfully, it was swiftly spotted and is already being altered.

The image was posted to Reddit this morning by user Sinister_Panda.

York University spokesperson Joanne Rider said, "There were several creative applications of our 'Open Your Mind' campaign ads for which artwork was produced.

"There was unfortunately an error on one of the applications that appeared on a select number of GO trains this morning.

"The error was noticed and the artwork was removed within a very short time period."

Rider said the university was waiting for confirmation that the process was complete shortly after 3 p.m. Thursday.

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READY TO ENGAGE

Metro's coast-to-coast daily election series connects young, urban Canadians to the issues they care about

VOTER PROFILE

Name: Cory Nicotine **Age:** 26 **Riding:** Edmonton Manning
His issues: Energy, environment, First Nations rights, arts

A vote for the future of First Nations Canadians

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
in Edmonton

"This is where everything changed for me."

Cory Nicotine sits in a hallway at iHuman Youth Society in Edmonton, in the downtown neighbourhood known as the Quarters — home to parking lots and social-outreach groups, crime and Chinese restaurants — not far from scenic parks of the river valley.

This is the organization where he came for help when he got into petty trouble with the law, and was recruited for a theatre project that "gave me a voice that I never thought I had." iHuman made him a youth mentor, a community organizer, and led his political awakening.

"If there's one question I got, if I see any of the potential prime ministers," he says, "it would be: What would Canada look like for a young person like me, First Nations person, living on or underneath the minimum wage? What would it look like under their power or control?"

At 26, and though two federal elections have passed since he turned 18, this will be Nicotine's first time voting for Canada's next leader.

"I want to exercise my right. It's something indigenous people never got to do before. It's one way we could voice our opinions."

Nicotine has worries, and he's hoping the election can bring solutions and answers. Are major oil pipelines safe? Who will get the royalties? And what does it mean for First Nations near the oilsands?

Nicotine wants to see an inquiry into missing-and-murdered indigenous women ("like everybody"), but where will the money come from? And will it be taken from funds that currently help First Nations? How can we help young people without jobs? What about affordable education?

He sees the big three political parties in broad strokes: Conservatives represent "high class, billionaire, millionaire people. Liberals: middle-class, family people. NDP is looking for people trying to come up and make it."

That's Nicotine, who grew up "with nothing, wearing the same shoes and same clothes for about a year." But he hasn't decided who to vote for, yet.

Nicotine has worked on an art project with the NDP candidate in his riding, Aaron Paquette, who he calls a good guy with a good heart. He'd been thinking NDP, "because Jack Layton was a cool dude." But now, the party "is different from when Jack Layton ran it." He's not so sure about Tom Mulcair. He thinks Justin Trudeau also seems like a "good guy," and he likes the Liberals' plan to decriminalize marijuana, even though he doesn't smoke it.

He wants a Canada that stands for multiculturalism and welcomes refugees, that listens to the will of its indigenous peoples, that is a world leader in environmental protection.

As for federal politics impact on his own life, "I haven't seen much help from the government," he says. "I've lived on a reserve and I've lived in the city, and nothing, I feel, has gotten better."

But Nicotine, who is also a filmmaker, has had the opposite: what a government can take away. A few years ago, he was set to go to Africa, where he'd already been as a Canada World Youth leader, and make a documentary. Then the Conservatives cut arts funding. "It could have been a life-changing experience for me. There was so much I was hoping for in that."

Rosemary Westwood is travelling across the country talking to young voters. On Monday she'll be in Calgary.

Playing the vote-swapping market

Tight ridings have plenty to offer with the right strategy

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Claire Nielsen is offering a trade: She'll (*gasp*) vote Liberal for you, if you'll vote Green or NDP for her.

Nielsen, a 21-year-old graphic- design student from the British Columbia riding of South Surrey–White Rock is looking for someone to vote-swap with.

"If you live in a riding that could go NDP or Green and you want to #voteswap hmu. Willing to vote NDP, Green, or (shudder) Liberal. #cdnpoli," she recently tweeted.

Nielsen would like to vote Green, or if not Green, then NDP, but she doesn't think either of those options are likely to count for much in South Surrey–White Rock.

"We've typically gone Conservative before, and that's what I'm trying to avoid," she said. So in comes the political calculus.

A recent vote projection for her riding by threehundredeight.com, suggests the Liberals are most likely to unseat the incumbent Tories. So, if Nielsen can find a suitable swapping partner — that is, a Liberal supporter in a riding where the NDP or Greens are in a close race with the Conservatives — she would pledge to vote Liberal in her riding on her behalf of her swapping partner, in exchange for her partner's promise to vote NDP.

But Nielsen hasn't yet found a match. She's worried her riding isn't close enough.

In the vote-swapping marketplace, where a voter's value is measured by their ability to affect outcomes, those in safe ridings have little to offer. And given that this is largely an anti-Harper movement, voters in safe Conservative ridings are the least valuable of all.

Those who find themselves in Nielsen's shoes might have better luck checking out some of the vote-swapping websites that have cropped up during this campaign.

Jim Harris, a former leader of the Green Party, runs one of them: voteswapping.ca. The site, which is expressly devoted to defeating the Conservatives, shows users who enter their postal code a rundown of some recent polling and predictions for their riding. NDP supporters living in swing ridings where the Conservatives are in a tight race with the Liberals, and Liberals supporters living in swing ridings where the Conservatives are in a tight race with the NDP are invited to swap.

Green supporters are invited to swap votes with NDP and Liberal supporters in the one riding where the Greens might win: Elizabeth May's riding of Saanich-Gulf Islands. (Some have credited vote-swapping for May's victory in 2011.)

Harris thinks it won't take too many vote-swappers to make a big difference.

"In 2011, Harper won his majority with 14 seats," he said, "and when you look at the difference between the Conservative winner and the second place in the 14 closest ridings, it's 6,201 votes.

"So about 6,000 votes out of about 11.8 million gave Harper his majority."

VISUALIZATION

Sample swapping scenarios

SCENARIO 1:
A Liberal supporter in Kootenay-Columbia
NDP: 37%
Conservatives: 37%
Liberals: 15%

swaps with

An NDP supporter in Eglinton-Lawrence
Liberals: 37%
Conservatives: 35%
NDP: 24%

51
Ridings were decided by 5% or less in the 2011 election.

SCENARIO 2:
A Liberal supporter in Saskatoon-University
NDP: 37%
Conservatives: 37%
Liberals: 22%

swaps with

An NDP supporter in Fredericton
Liberals: 37%
Conservatives: 32%
NDP: 20%

Thursday night's debate in French offered a rare opportunity to hear from all the leaders.
ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leaders face off over the niqab

ELECTION 2015

Controversial face covering leads to heated exchanges

The politically charged subject of minority and women's rights created unusual on-stage alliances — and one of the most heated exchanges of the campaign — during the first French-language debate of the federal election.

Health care, the right to die with dignity, the Senate and the economy also came up Thursday during the first half of the debate, hosted by Radio-Canada in Montreal.

But the question of whether Muslim women who wear the face-covering niqab should be required to show their face while taking the citizenship oath was one of the most widely anticipated discussion points.

Conservative Leader Stephen Harper and the Bloc Quebecois' Gilles Duceppe had both run pointed television ads expressing the controversial position that women who wear the veil should be made to remove it during the ceremony.

"We're talking about a fundamental question; it's the question of equality between men and women in our society," said Duceppe, who promised the Bloc's first bill in the Commons would be extend a ban on the veil to other areas, such as public servants.

Although NDP Leader Tom Mulcair and Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau are going head to head for seats in Quebec, they wound up on the same page on the issue — they didn't think a woman should be told how to dress.

Where is the inquiry on missing and murdered aboriginal women?
Elizabeth May, Green Party Leader

"I understand it's a question that makes many people uneasy, but for me, the state is there to defend minority rights, and to defend the rights of women," Trudeau said.

That led to a tense moment during the debate that featured Harper and Mulcair facing each other directly, talking loudly over each other.

"Mr. Mulcair, I will never tell my young daughter that a woman should cover her face because she is woman. That's not our Canada, that's not acceptable for me," Harper said.

"Attack the oppressor, don't attack the woman, Mr. Harper ... have the courage to do that," Mulcair said. "But it's not by depriving these women of their citizenship and their rights that you're going to succeed in helping them."

Green party Leader Elizabeth May called the issue a "fake debate" that has nothing to do with important questions on climate change, unemployment and the economy.

"For women's rights, where is the inquiry on missing and murdered aboriginal women?" she asked.

Other lively moments came during a discussion on constitutional issues, where Trudeau challenged Mulcair's position that a simple majority in a referendum would be enough for Quebec to separate from Canada.

"Mr. Trudeau says it will take much more than simple majority, but he refuses to say how much," Mulcair said.

"A prime minister should fight for the unity of the country, and it won't surprise anyone that's what I intend to do," said Trudeau.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHERE THE LEADERS ARE FRIDAY

- **Stephen Harper** will be in Riviere-du-Loup, Que.
- **Justin Trudeau** will be in Ottawa.
- **Tom Mulcair** will be in Quebec City.
- **Elizabeth May** will be in Montreal.

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‘It’s like being born again’

JAILED JOURNALIST

For Fahmy, battle for a free press in Egypt continues

Mohamed Fahmy is filled with ideas for his future as a free man.

Mere hours after being released from a Cairo prison, the Canadian journalist who spent nearly two years fighting widely decried terror charges is eager to discuss the next stage of his fight for freedom of the press in Egypt.

“It’s a whole new chapter, it’s like being born again,” he said as the reality of his liberty began to sink in. “I just have so much inside me that I want to let out.”

When he was sent to prison for the second time in the same case last month, Fahmy began working on what he called a charter of rights for journalists in Egypt. Before he leaves Cairo for Canada in a few days he wants to present his document to Egypt’s President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi who pardoned him.

Mohamed Fahmy celebrates with his wife Marwa Omara after being released from Torah prison in Cairo, Egypt, Wednesday. AMR NABIL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

“I want to build on what happened with this case and explain to him some of the issues that journalists face here on the ground,” he said. “I will continue fighting to get at least little victories to a real true free press.”

Fahmy’s long-running legal saga has drawn attention from around the world ever since he and two colleagues were arrested in December 2013 while working for satellite news broadcaster Al Jazeera English.

> **I will continue fighting to get at least little victories.**
> Mohamed Fahmy

The trio — who maintained their innocence throughout — were charged with offences that included supporting a banned organization and fabricating footage to undermine the country’s national security.

They were convicted in a trial that observers called a sham and sentenced to years in prison. An appeal brought about a second trial, although one of them, Australian Peter Greste, was suddenly released under a law which allows for the deportation of foreign nationals convicted of crimes.

Fahmy and his Egyptian colleague Baher Mohamed, however, underwent a retrial, were granted bail over the course of it, and ended up back behind bars when a judge found them guilty yet again — an outcome which shocked observers.

Returning to prison was difficult, Fahmy admitted, but not quite as hard as the initial shock of being sentenced to seven years during his first trial. “When I got sentenced for three years this time around it really hurt and it was hard as well, but I sort of was more prepared mentally and physically in handling the prison. But it was tough, it was really tough.”

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

POLITICS

Groups surprised NDP-er not aware of Auschwitz

Jewish groups say they were astonished that an educated school trustee running for the New Democrats in the federal election had no awareness of one of the Nazis’ most notorious deaths camps.

Jewish leaders were reacting to comments by Alex Johnstone, the NDP candidate in Hamilton, Ont., who was forced to apologize for referring to fence posts at Auschwitz as being phallic on a 2008 Facebook page.

Explaining her comments to a local newspaper Tuesday, Johnstone reportedly claimed that she didn’t know what Auschwitz was.

Jon Goldberg of the Atlantic Jewish Council says he found it difficult to believe that Johnstone, a social worker by training and school trustee, would not be familiar with the concentration camp in Poland that was responsible for the extermination of more than one million people. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SAUDI ARABIA

Over 700 pilgrims killed in hajj crush

Two giant waves of Muslim pilgrims collided at an intersection Thursday near a holy site in Saudi Arabia, and more than 700 people were crushed and trampled to death in the worst disaster at the hajj in a quarter-century.

"People were climbing over one another just to breathe," said Abdullah Lotfy of Egypt. "It was like a wave. You go forward and suddenly you go back."

The hajj, which drew two million people from over 180 countries this year, is a huge logistical challenge for Saudi Arabia. The kingdom has spent billions of dollars to accommodate the growing number of pilgrims and maintain safety and security at Islam's holy cities of Mecca and Medina for the annual event.

Saudi Interior Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Mansour al-Turki said that initial reports showed two crowds coming from opposing directions converged at an intersection in Mina, on the outskirts of Mecca, when the pushing and shoving started. "Unfortunately, these incidents happen in a moment," al-Turki said at a news conference.

100,000

About 100,000 security forces were deployed to manage the crowds and provide security for this year's hajj, with 5,000 CCTV cameras in Mecca and Medina.

But four survivors questioned how officials managing the flow of people could allow two big crowds going in different directions to intersect on streets packed with pilgrims.

As of late Thursday, the death toll was 719, but that probably would rise as bodies continued to be counted. At least 863 people were injured.

It was the second major accident during this year's hajj season. On Sept. 11, a construction crane crashed down onto the Grand Mosque, killing 111 people and injuring more than 390.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EU leaders show unity once more

metro The Syrian Crisis
The response

Summit OKs plan to deal with migrants

After months of delay and debate, European Union leaders agreed Thursday to mount a broader, more comprehensive response to Europe's migration crisis, including ponying up more money to aid refugees in the Middle East, both to feed them and to reduce the chance they will come to Europe, and to toughen EU border controls.

"In the face of a major challenge, Europe can't just say: We will not deal with this. That would be completely wrong," said German Chancellor Angela Merkel. "We have to find answers together."

"Urgent needs" of refugees currently in the Middle East will be met with at least 1 billion euros ($1.1 billion US) in fresh EU funding to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, World Food Program and other agencies, the leaders decided. Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and other countries dealing with refugees fleeing the Syrian civil war should also receive greater injections of EU assistance, including through a "substantial increase" in the EU's Regional Trust Fund.

Afghan refugees reach the Greek island of Lesbos, Thursday, joining the nearly half-million asylum-seekers already in Europe. PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The leaders agreed to beef up border controls by providing more resources, including personnel and equipment from their countries, to help Frontex, the EU's border agency, Europol and other EU organizations. By November, new EU dedicated teams will be fully deployed to assist local authorities in Greece and Italy — where most people have been arriving.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUCTION

Diamond could net $28M

A pink diamond the size of a postage stamp is going on the auction block and it's estimated to bring as much as $28 million US.

The 16.08-carat gem could set a record for a cushion-shaped fancy vivid pink diamond when it's offered at Christie's in Geneva on Nov. 10.

The auction house says it's the largest diamond of its kind to come to auction.

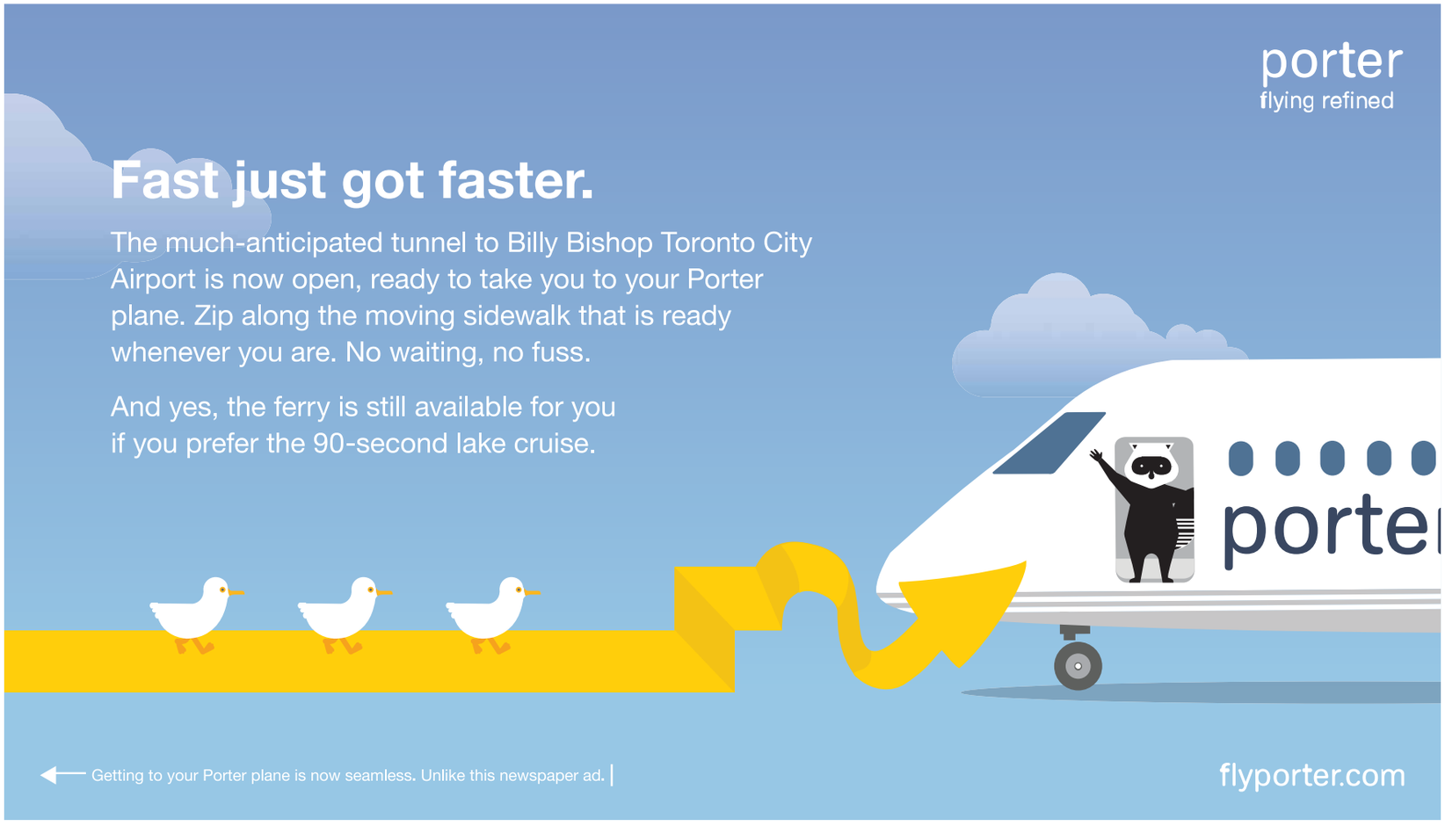
A smaller, 8.72-carat pink diamond of the same shape and fancy vivid pink grade sold for $15.9 million US at auction in May.

Fancy vivid pink means the hue is of the purest and strongest saturation.

Christie's says the seller purchased it 10 years ago as an investment.

A 25-carat emerald-cut pink diamond holds the auction record for any diamond. It sold for $46 million US in 2010.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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VOLKSWAGEN SCANDAL

European cars have 'defeat device,' too

The software at the centre of Volkswagen's emissions scandal in the U.S. was built into the automaker's cars in Europe as well, Germany said Thursday, though it isn't yet clear if it helped cheat tests as it did in the U.S.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency disclosed Friday that stealth software makes VW's 2009-2015 model cars powered by 2.0-litre diesel engines run cleaner during emissions tests than in actual driving.

Germany's motor transport authority is conducting static and road tests on Volkswagen models and spot tests on cars made by other manufacturers, German and foreign.

France on Thursday announced random tests of about 100 French cars to ensure that their engines meet pollution standards in the wake of Volkswagen's emissions scandal.

On Thursday, shares in BMW dropped 5.2 per cent after Germany's Auto Bild magazine reported that road tests by the International Council on Clean Transportation showed the BMW X3 xdrive model exceeding European emissions limits by more than 11 times. It did not say what the cause for the alleged problem was.

BMW said in a statement that "the BMW Group does not manipulate or rig any emissions tests."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

11M

VW admitted the so-called "defeat device" exists in 11 million diesel cars worldwide.

Models dress as characters from the video game Call of Duty. Activision is expanding its e-sports competition from an annual tournament to a year-round season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Call of Duty getting a league of its own

VIDEO GAMES

Competition expanding to year-round championship

Activision is widening the scope of e-sports competition for Call of Duty players.

The publisher of the hugely popular military shooter franchise is expanding its e-sports program next year from an annual tournament to year-round international leagues, as well as increasing the prize pool from $1 million US to $3 million US. The international leagues will be comprised of professional and amateur divisions, culminating in a championship at the end of the year.

"This is going to mark a new era of e-sports for Call of Duty," said Rob Kostich, senior vice-president and general manager for Call of Duty at Activision. "It signals Activision stepping up our commitment to what we've been doing with e-sports. We're expanding our season to make it a fun, competitive year leading into the Call of Duty Championship."

The Santa Monica, Calif.-based publisher is calling the revamped e-sports offering the Call of Duty World League. The competition will launch in early 2016 with leagues in North America, Europe and Australia and New Zealand. The three territories will each feature independent seasons concluding with 32 teams at the Call of Duty Championship in fall 2016.

> **It felt like the right time to do it.**
> Rob Kostich

"It felt like the right time to do it," said Kostich. "We've learned a lot over the past few years and talked a lot to our community. We think we have an agenda that's going to be really attractive to them, and we have a new game coming out, Call of Duty: Black Ops III, that we couldn't be more excited about to lead us into this new era of e-sports."

Kostich said the expanded program was devised to offer a deeper level of engagement with pro gamers while also encouraging casual fans.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAPAL VISIT TO U.S.

Free-ticket scalpers miss Pope's message

Ticket scalpers are getting creative to make sure their listings don't get deleted or lost as Pope Francis' U.S. tour heads to New York and Philadelphia.

One lists $175 US rosary beads that just happen to come with a pair of tickets to the pontiff's outdoor Mass in Philadelphia.

The same tickets that papal visit organizers doled out free of charge through parishes and online giveaways weeks ago are available on the online grey market with hefty price tags.

Want a chance to see Pope Francis roll through New York's Central Park on Friday? That'll be $100 US.

Church and civic leaders have denounced the sales and asked websites to remove the listings. The auction site eBay has complied, saying the sales violate its terms of service.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pope Francis. THE WASHINGTON POST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Oculus eyes virtual reality mainstream market

Virtual reality is taking a few steps closer to the mainstream with announcements at a developers conference for virtual reality technology company Oculus in Los Angeles. Samsung unveiled a headset that brings the technology to its latest smartphones at half the price, Facebook said it is launching support for 360-degree video, and online video services said they are on board. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR
75.09¢ (+0.17¢)

TSX
13,338.67 (-45.02)

OIL
$44.91 US (+43¢)

GOLD
$1,153.80 US (+$22.30)

NATURAL GAS: $2.674 US (+3.6¢)
DOW JONES: 16,201.32 (-78.57)

HEALTH INSURANCE

Research options, insurer advises

The period of time between graduating from school to landing a full-time job with benefits can stretch on for months or years for young Canadians, meaning they lack extended health and dental benefits since they're too old to be covered by their parents' plans.

And with the growing use of contract employees who don't receive benefits, that means young Canadians must fend for themselves and buy their own supplemental health and dental insurance.

Provincial health insurance doesn't cover everything. Whether it's a prescription for penicillin, a crown that needs to be replaced or an ambulance ride to the hospital, if you don't have insurance, you'll end up paying out of pocket.

Loretta Kulchycki, vice-president of group marketing at Great-West Life, suggests consumers start their hunt for health and dental benefits by deciding how much coverage they're going to need and researching their options online.

Insurance companies generally offer a choice of the level of coverage, from bare-bones plans that provide basic prescription drug coverage and dental checkups to comprehensive options with higher limits and a broader range.

Laurel Pedersen, assistant vice-president of health insurance product development at Sun Life, says if you have a pre-existing health condition, you have some choices.

A "guaranteed issue" plan may be more expensive, but will cover a pre-existing condition, while a fully underwritten plan may be cheaper, but exclude costs connected with your outstanding health issues.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

60 days

If you're coming off your parents' group plan or another insurance plan, you have about 60 days when you can roll yourself into an individual plan without going through underwriting, Sue Reibel at Manulife says.

metro VIEWS

Gone fishing, for a while: Indigenous people in Alaska were catching salmon long before anyone thought. Cooked fish bits were found dating 11,500 years back, to the last ice age.

THE BIG THING: HAS CASH GONE COLD?

When was the last time you used cash for something other than a panhandler or a parking meter? Now the Bank of England's chief economist, Andy Haldane, has mused about abolishing money all together — at least the kind that's not made of plastic. To get the European economy going, he hopes to effectively charge negative interest — basically, to penalize people for leaving money in the bank. That's easier to do with a digital balance than with a wad of bills stuffed under a mattress. And though there are some protests from libertarians, there may be other good reasons to get rid of the green.

1. **Making (criminals) change** When you don't want to be caught buying or selling, cash is your friend. It's what the dark side of the economy runs on. Some researchers argue that the crime rate goes down when people have fewer opportunities to offend — and without cash, drug dealers, phone pawners and tax dodgers may have a harder time of it. On the other hand, the so-called dark web is increasingly the home of such tainted transactions.

2. **Price to pay** Some feel that the idea of canning cash and allowing people's savings to be slimmed by negative interest has a whiff of tyranny about it. A columnist in the Financial Times wrote, "The anonymity of cash helps to free people from their governments, and some criminality is a price worth paying for liberty."

3. **Giving credit to debit** Incredibly, when some counties in Missouri started making welfare payments electronically, cash-motivated crimes such as burglary and larceny fell by nearly 10 per cent compared to counties that used cheques that had to be cashed. That lends credence to the idea that money burns a hole in your pocket and puts bad ideas in your head.

Happy face/sad face

From **sprinting seniors** to **Russian royals,** Metro weighs in on the news making headlines this week

Romanov remains to be removed

The last royals of Russia, Czar Nicholas II and his wife Alexandra, will be exhumed to settle an old dispute. The monarchs and their five children were killed in 1918. Bones of the parents and three children were interred in 1998. Two more sets of remains put to rest in 2007 were thought to be the other children. Not everyone agrees. Chief shovel-wielder is the Orthodox church, which canonized the family. So those who want to pray over the relics would be committing sacrilege if these turn out to be someone else's old bones.

SOURCE: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

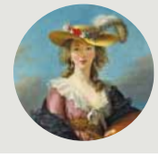
Centenarian runs into old age

Japanese athlete Hidekichi Miyazaki set a record as the world's oldest competitive sprinter this week, one day after turning 105 — but he was sad about it. He fell short of his personal best, running 100 metres in 42.22 seconds, down from a record of 34.10. Miyaki was born on Sept. 22, 1910. He started running only in his 90s. Before that, his sporting activities were limited to board games — but he looked elsewhere for fun when his fellow players began to die off. The secret of his success is a little surprising: He says it's chewing his food properly.

SOURCE: CBC

Famous female French artist finally feted

After 170 years in obscurity, the first internationally celebrated female artist is getting her own exhibition in France. Elisabeth Louise Vigée le Brun fell out of favour after France's revolutionary furor, in part because her most famous work is a monumental portrait of Queen Marie-Antoinette, who had an unfortunate encounter with a guillotine just six years after it was painted. Only 150 of about 1,000 paintings le Brun created during her life will be displayed at Paris's Grand Palais – but it's an honour for an artist who was constantly dismissed by her male contemporaries. SOURCE: BBC



Bacteria wage war worldwide

Antibiotic overuse brings to mind a spoiled child with a sniffle whose parents demand penicillin. But a new report by the U.S. Center for Disease Dynamics suggests that's not right. While rich countries like Sweden are starting to take note of germs adapting to the medicines we use against them, that's not happening in the developing world. In many places antibiotics are available without a prescription. Drug resistance is serious in Kenya and Vietnam. And in India, 80 per cent of the stomach bug E. coli is resistant to three categories of drugs — a scary sign that an invisible enemy is outsmarting human attempts to curb disease. SOURCE: NPR

metroview

Sex education: Won't someone think of what the children need?

Samantha Emann
Metro | Toronto

The numbers are in, and have been for a while, and it's official: Teens have sex. For their sake, get over it.

I can't check Facebook or navigate the news without seeing another complaint about the new sex-education curriculum in Ontario — the most modern document of its type in the country, and one that sets a standard for other provinces to follow.

Yes, we should consider dissenters when crafting policies that affect children. But it's equally important to make sure the curriculum is free of the misinformation and blatant bigotry of organizations clearly pushing their own agendas.

Groups like the Canadian Families Alliance and the Campaign Life Coalition say the new curriculum, which opens a discussion on the proper names of genitalia in Grade 1, is improper. I, for one, do not miss the days of pee-pee and wee-wee, and I think such things are beneath us. The words "penis" and "vagina" cannot corrupt children.

These organizations are overlooking the facts. According to Statistics Canada, 25 per cent of teenagers have sex for the first time at age 15 or 16. Nine per cent — one in ten — were 14 or younger. The percentage increases with age, and by 18 or 19, 68 per cent said they have had sex.

But ideologues don't let facts stand in the way of their moral beliefs and so-called "traditional" view of human sexuality — that sex ought to take place between one man and one woman who are married to each other. That's nothing more than a hole in the sand where parents can bury their heads to deny that their teenagers are having sex.

If teens are going to have sex (and they are), they need information that will help them make the right choices and develop healthy, respectful relationships.

And they're not getting that information. The huge confusion about consent makes that abundantly clear. Much hay has been made about Grade 8 lessons in making a "personal plan" for sexual activity.

Maybe that's needed. A 2015 survey found 67 per cent of Canadians couldn't accurately define consent, and four per cent don't think consent is needed in every case (who are you people?).

A recent campaign by the University of British Columbia to teach this highly nuanced concept through the use of emojis further demonstrates why consent should be taught at a young age, before kids are having sex. The concept cannot be boiled down to smiley and not-so-smiley faces.

Teaching young people about healthy sexuality can save lives, and that is more valuable than archaic social beliefs and more important than the feelings of any parent who doesn't want to think about their children having sex.

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PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan

IT IS A STRANGE FACT THAT FREEDOM AND EQUALITY, THE TWO BASIC IDEAS OF DEMOCRACY, ARE TO SOME EXTENT CONTRADICTORY.
THOMAS MANN

metro WEEKEND
Your essential daily news
MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION STYLE

Robert De Niro recently walked out of an interview with a journalist, saying "I'm not doing this, darling." But he isn't the first celebrity to behave badly when talking to the press. HANDOUT

The no good, very bad interview

PRESS JUNKETS

If you think De Niro is bad, try talking to Tommy Lee

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

What would you do if Robert De Niro cut short your conversation with a quick, "I'm not doing this, darling," and exited? If you're Radio Times journalist Emma Brockes you write about it and watch your article go viral.

As unpleasant as the encounter may have been — he objected to the "negative inference" of her questions, she called him condescending — it did exactly what it was meant to do, generate buzz for De Niro's upcoming film The Intern.

Who won? I'll give the edge to Brockes who, when faced with a bad situation, turned De Niro's lemons into lemonade and earned just as much press as the touchy actor.

De Niro took some blowback for his behaviour. Daily Mail columnist Piers Morgan wrote, "If I'd been her, I'd have slapped him 'round his smug little chops," adding the Goodfellas star is "renowned as the rudest, most difficult and frankly obnoxious star to interview, possibly in the history of planet Earth."

I think Morgan overstates his case. De Niro isn't the worst — anyone who has ever done a movie junket knows Tommy Lee Jones is the crankiest, most soul destroying interview ever — he's just a reticent interview, who, according to director Nancy Myers, doesn't want "to expose himself all the time."

De Niro isn't alone in the chat-and-dash sweepstakes. Robert Downey Jr. and Quentin Tarantino bolted on Krishnan Guru-Murthy with the Avengers: Age of Ultron actor later calling the Channel 4 news presenter a "syphilitic parasite." Robert Pattinson, Naomi Campbell and Russell Crowe have also done runners on the press.

So why submit to promotional interviews at all? Contractual obligation has much to do with it, but beyond that, they're good for the movie. Daniel Radcliffe, star of Harry Potter, Horns and the upcoming Victor Frankenstein, once told me no matter how famous the actor, anyone who doesn't get out and pump their film up to the press is making a huge mistake.

As a result everyone does them and while it's easy to look at De Niro or Downey as spoiled brats, I'm surprised walkouts don't happen more often.

It must get brutally dull answering the same questions over and over, particularly when they are of the "Of all your leading ladies who was the best kisser?" variety.

How bad can it get in the interview suites?

Once a talking head proudly told me she wrote new lyrics for Beyoncé's hit song Survivor… "My name's Beyoncé/ I'm in Goldmember/ You're watching blah blah on blah blah blah…" and asked the superstar to sing them as a promo for her television station. If I were Beyoncé I would have exited stage left without a song on my lips.

I remember one "reporter" asking George Lucas "whether Dark Vader was a good guy or a bad guy." If I were Lucas I would have hitched a Millennium Falcon ride out of there.

Recently I heard Tom Cruise try and answer the question, "What kind of stunt would you do to impress a girl?" If I were Cruise I would have grabbed the side of the nearest plane and jetted out of there.

As for De Niro, Brockes graciously says she has sympathy for him "because nobody wants to be there for these choreographed junket interviews."

De Niro wasn't quite as kind, but at least he called her "darling" and not "syphilitic parasite."

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

The Intern	★★
Hotel Transylvania	★★
Pawn Sacrifice	★★★

HOW RATING WORKS	
★★★★	SEE IT
★★★	WORTHWHILE
★★	UP TO YOU
★	SKIP IT

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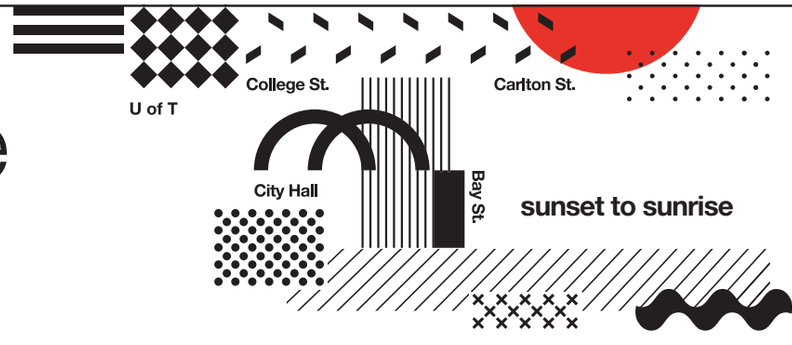

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ANIMATION

Hotel Transylvania 2

Director: Genndy Tartakovsky
Starring: Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez

The hit CG-animated family comedy Hotel Transylvania gets a followup with this Sony Pictures Animation production.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: NOT YET REVIEWED Audience: 96%

ACTION & ADVENTURE

Everest

Director: Baltasar Kormakur
Starring: Jake Gyllenhaal, Jason Clarke

2 Guns helmer Baltasar Kormakur directs Jake Gyllenhaal, Josh Brolin, Jason Clarke, and John Hawkes in this adventure docudrama set in 1996, when a number of simultaneous expeditions up Mount Everest resulted in the deaths of eight climbers.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 73% Audience: 76%

COMEDY

The Intern

Director: Nancy Meyers
Starring: Anne Hathaway, Robert DeNiro

A retired successful business owner and widower lands an internship at a fashion website run by a young, career-driven woman.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 58% Audience: 97%

DRAMA

Pawn Sacrifice

Director: Edward Zwick
Starring: Peter Sarsgaard, Tobey Maguire

In a gripping true story set during the height of the Cold War, American chess prodigy Bobby Fischer (Tobey Maguire) finds himself caught between two superpowers when he challenges the Soviet Empire.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 79% Audience: 96%

DOCUMENTARY

Unbranded

Director: Phillip Baribeau
Starring: Ben Masters, Ben Thamer

Ben Masters, a young Texas horseman, set out to inspire adoptions for 50,000 wild horses and burros living in government captivity. He gathered three friends and hatched an outrageous plot to adopt, train and ride wild mustangs 3,000 miles from the Mexican border to Canada.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: NOT YET REVIEWED Audience: 100%

HORROR

The Green Inferno

Director: Eli Roth
Starring: Ariel Levy, Kirby Bliss Blanton

From acclaimed horror director, Eli Roth, The Green Inferno follows a group of student activists who travel from New York City to the Amazon to save the rainforest. However, once they arrive they soon discover they are not alone.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 54% Audience: 87%

DRAMA/HORROR

Goodnight Mommy

Director: Severin Fiala, Veronika Franz
Starring: Elias Schwarz, Susanne Wuest

A lonesome house in the countryside. Nine-year-old twin brothers are waiting for their mother. When she comes home, bandaged after cosmetic surgery, nothing is like before. The children start to doubt this woman is actually their mother.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 83% Audience: 70%

DRAMA

The New Girlfriend

Director: François Ozon
Starring: Raphaël Personnaz, Isild Le Besco

Claire, a young woman whose closest friend since childhood, Lea, passes away leaving behind a husband, David (Romain Duris) and a newborn baby. One day she drops by David's house unexpectedly, and finds him dressed in his dead wife's clothes and feeding their baby with a bottle.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 81% Audience: 58%

DRAMA

Mississippi Grind

Director: Ryan Fleck, Anna Boden
Starring: Ryan Reynolds, Sienna Miller

Gerry is a talented poker player, but his gambling habit is getting the best of him. One day, he meets a charismatic young traveller named Curtis. Deeming Curtis his lucky charm, Gerry convinces him that they should hit the road together to gamble.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 92% Audience: 92%

DOCUMENTARY

Listen to Me Marlon

Director: Stevan Riley
Starring: Marlon Brando

Unbeknownst to the public, Marlon Brando — a great star who remained deliberately mysterious to the press and the world at large for his entire professional life — created a vast archive of personal audio and visual materials over his lifetime, often deeply confessional and completely without vanity or evasion.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 96% Audience: 92%

DRAMA

Wildlike

Director: Frank Hall Green
Starring: Ella Purnell, Brian Geraghty

Mackenzie, a troubled but daring teenage girl, is sent by her struggling mother to live with her uncle in Juneau, Alaska. Although Uncle seems like a supportive caretaker and friend, the relationship turns and Mackenzie is forced to run. Trying to make her way back to Seattle alone, Mackenzie only winds up deeper in the Alaskan interior.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 100% Audience: 78%

COMEDY

Grandma

Director: Paul Weitz
Starring: Lily Tomlin, Marcia Gay Harden

Lily Tomlin stars as Elle who has just gotten through breaking up with her girlfriend when Elle's granddaughter Sage unexpectedly shows up needing $600 before sundown. Temporarily broke, Grandma Elle and Sage spend the day trying to get their hands on the cash as their unannounced visits to old friends and flames end up digging up secrets.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 92% Audience: 92%

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Billy Crudup's big experiment

INTERVIEW

Actor took his role as a psychologist too seriously

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

The Stanford Prison Experiment is based on the real-life psychological experiment conducted by Dr. Philip Zimbardo in 1971. CONTRIBUTED

Actor Billy Crudup has a simple theory why his true-life indie drama The Stanford Prison Experiment is striking a chord with movie audiences.

"It is disturbing in the exact right way," states the 47-year-old star who plays Dr. Philip Zimbardo — the infamous university professor who directed one of history's most shocking social experiments.

Filmmaker Kyle Patrick Alvarez's award-winning Sundance hit dramatizes the 1971 experiment in which Zimbardo (played by Crudup) randomly assigned students to either the role of sadistic guard or submissive inmate, then studied as the subjects soon grew horribly abusive in a simulated jailhouse environment.

"Oh, it's interesting," said Crudup about the actual footage he studied in preparation. "At that time, the closed-circuit television wasn't the greatest quality and the cameras were positioned far away (so) you don't get the same kind of feeling watching it as seeing the movie. Kyle does this really impressive job getting close-ups of all the faces twitching or these kids really being disturbed."

For authenticity, Alvarez also enlisted the real Dr. Zimbardo to help shape the script and although the researcher's methods have since been called into question, Crudup insists the man seemed entirely rational whenever he visited the set.

"He is certainly among the most charismatic (men) that I've met," said Crudup.

"He has such a fascination with this subject matter and for this event in particular and he has an appetite to share experience so he was a really wonderful presence to have on set and to learn from."

But Crudup may have enjoyed Zimbardo's visits for another reason. After all, since the veteran star of blockbusters Almost Famous and comic-book adaptation Watchmen was portraying the strict psychologist, he decided to avoid the rest of the young cast and kept from mingling with fellow actors during filming.

"I was meant to be an authority figure and someone who was intimidating and had a capacity to manipulate the situation of their well being. I didn't want them to have any great sense of generosity or warmth towards me," explained Crudup.

"Besides when you're working on a low-budget movie like this, there's not that much opportunity for socializing anyway."

FILMOGRAPHY

Watchmen (2009): Crudup got to flex his muscles as superhero Dr. Manhattan in this global comic-book hit.

Big Fish (2003): Trying to relive the stories of his fictional dying father proved successful in this Tim Burton fantasy, earning $123 million worldwide.

Almost Famous (2000): Perhaps his best known role, Crudup plays '70s guitarist Russell Hammond in this Oscar-nominated rock drama.

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Roles reverse when camera rolls

Anne Hathaway plays the founder of an online clothing startup in The Intern. HANDOUT

THE INTERN

Hathaway bosses De Niro despite being intimidated

Matt Prigge
Metro | New York

Robert De Niro is scary. That's the line, anyway. In addition to his storied accomplishments, he's quiet and careful with words, loath to open up — qualities that, at least for journalists hoping for a chatty interview, paint him as formidable. Indeed, he recently walked out on an interview (if perhaps not undeservedly) for his new film, The Intern. Even Anne Hathaway, his co-star, was initially at least a little terrified.

"I couldn't talk around him for the first three weeks. I just felt like an idiot with everything I said," Hathaway recalls. But she soon found that his reticence was, as their director, Nancy Meyers (Something's Gotta Give, It's Complicated), had told her, more zen than menace. "Bob's good at having chemistry with people. So I assumed that as long as I didn't mess up I'd be OK."

As it happens, in The Intern their characters have something like the opposite arc. He plays Ben Whittaker, a widower who takes advantage of a new trend towards hiring retirees as unpaid interns. He winds up at an online clothing startup founded and largely run, or at least micromanaged, by Hathaway's Jules Ostin. She's overworked and remote, but Ben finds a way to earn her trust and is soon offering her advice.

"I think it is (Meyers') love letter to us, our generation," De Niro says. "When you're a certain age, you get older, you're less relevant in some ways. That's just not the case."

Hathaway herself learned a few things, not just from De Niro but also from Meyers.

"When we started we saw the character in two different ways," Hathaway remembers. "I wanted her to be wearing her stress on her sleeve; Nancy wanted her to have it more together. And then I thought, 'Idiot. Who knows a Nancy Meyers character better than Nancy Meyers?' It became this wonderful experience in being guided through a character, which is very new for me."

Once Hathaway surrendered her initial instincts to Meyers' vision, she says she found a place of contentment. "Up until now I have made a lot of movies from insecurity and neuroses and self-doubt. I just got really tired of it and I decided to make this from a more positive place, to feel good about what I was doing," Hathaway explains. "It turns out you can make a movie without having non-stop sleepless nights."

So that's what Hathaway learned about herself. De Niro didn't have quite the same epiphany. He says, "I don't think I learned anything about myself that I didn't know already."

As for their director, Hathaway is typically effusive. "She's the smartest person in any room she's ever been in," she says. "Having been a woman in the industry for the last 30 years, it's not easy being the smartest, funniest person in the room and being a woman. But she's handled it with tremendous grace."

One last note: In addition to a newly zen feel for the craft, Hathaway — briefly, semi-disastrously — found herself with a newfound love for interns. She recalls being on a photoshoot recently, where she was greeted by an intern.

"Because of this movie I went out of my way to pay her a little more attention — ask who she was, why she was doing this, where she wanted to go," Hathaway remembers. Thinking she'd do something nice, she asked her to help out with some music she wanted to play, and had her rig up some iPods to the speaker system.

"I didn't realize the sound system was impossible to work. Every time she would leap from iPod to iPod, it would create the most horrible screech through the entire sound system. Everyone hated it. So, as I was trying to do a nice thing for the intern, I wound up making everyone annoyed by the sound she was making. So I'm not the best."

VALUABLE LESSON

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Canadian-made constrained by budget

HELLIONS

Prolific director makes horror that defies limits

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Canadian horror — and I don't mean when a Zamboni breaks down just before your ice time, but the kind of scary movies we make — tends to go against the grain. Movies like Ginger Snaps, Cannibal Girls and the squirmy body terror of David Cronenberg bring fresh points of view to established mythologies to breathe new life into old genres.

In 2008 director Bruce McDonald did just that with the bio-terror freakout, Pontypool. The story of a God Bug that turns people into zombies barely gives us a glimpse of the walking dead, instead replacing the gore with brain matter, making it one of the smartest undead movies in years.

He's genre-bending again, this time in Hellions, a home invasion survival tale with a demonic twist.

McDonald says Canadian filmmakers mess with traditional formulas for two reasons. The first is practical.

"The script, when I first read it, read easily like a 40-day shoot, $5-million movie," he says. "But then you get the news that you only have 20 days and less money. There's no choice but to subvert and say, 'We have to now begin with this established premise and show a world we kind of know, but subtly we have to make some different kinds of choices.'

"Hellions was much more of an action picture, in a sense, but you need time to make action. A sequence will work much better in 25 shots than in three shots. That's the practical nature of handmade Canadian cinema. We don't have the big machine but we do have some smart people and we know how to do it. That does create a spin on things. You're outside the gates of Hollywood and when the parents are away the kids will play."

The second reason? "Canadians are naturally mischievous and like to f— with people," he laughs.

McDonald's extensive resume includes Canadian classics like Hard Core Logo and Highway 61, but it's not heavily weighted to horror, even though he says Oct. 31 gave him his "Mr. Entertainment Gene."

"I have loved Halloween more than any other holiday since I was young," he says. "I think it was my first theatre. My first way into this entertainment world I love so much. I wasn't Catholic so I didn't get to the ceremonies of the Catholic Church and the robes and the incense and the priests and visions of hell. For a little Protestant kid from the suburbs, Halloween was the best."

"That's the practical nature of handmade Canadian cinema. We don't have the big machine but we do have some smart people."
Director Bruce McDonald

Bruce McDonald had half the shoot days he wanted to film Hellions. CONTRIBUTED

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KHMER ROUGE

Angelina Jolie Pitt's son heavily involved in new film about Cambodia

Angelina Jolie Pitt has been in scouting locations in Cambodia for her next film, First They Killed My Father, which she is casting entirely with local talent.

In a statement Thursday to The Associated Press, Jolie Pitt said she's spent the last week doing research and pre-production on the film before beginning shooting in Cambodia in November. She said she's striving, through meetings with Cambodians, to ensure the movie about the deadly Khmer Rouge regime is "accurate and faithful" to the 1970s events.

Jolie Pitt is collaborating with Cambodian author and human rights activist Luong Ung, who said the film "will be made with Cambodians as a symbol of dignity and an act of memory." The two wrote the script together, adapted from Ung's 2000 memoir. Jolie Pitt has said her 14-year-old Cambodia-born son, Maddox, is heavily involved in the movie, which is told from a child's perspective. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

The bag was ripped and discarded on the living room floor while we devoured its greasy contents.

After gathering enthusiastic reviews out of Cannes and TIFF, Sicario, French-Canadian director Denis Villeneuve's suspenseful and grim look at the drug trade, opens in theatres this month.

Emily Blunt is FBI field agent Kate Macer who plays by the book. She's asked to join a government task force, lead by a flip-flop-wearing Josh Brolin and Benicio Del Toro — whose near-silent performance is spellbinding — aiming to apprehend Mexico's most infamous drug lord. She becomes acutely aware that not everyone plays her way.

Villeneuve's style is being compared to Michael Mann and Kathryn Bigelow's. It also recalls Steven Soderbergh's Traffic, which examines the complicated drug cartel web weaved on both sides of the border.

But where Traffic looked over-saturated and grainy, Sicario appears washed out and arid. Long after I left the theatre, Sicario's haunting soundtrack, which pulsates and propels the film's thrilling pace, stayed with me.

So, too, did Blunt's performance. Not only how well she captured her character's descent from idealist to defeatist, but also how Blunt was able to convey how solitary — both professionally and personally — Macer is.

Not so in real life. Blunt married The Office's Jon Krasinski at George Clooney's Lake Como villa.

That's where her sister Felicity, a U.K.-based literary agent, met her future husband, Blunt's The Devil Wears Prada co-star, Stanley Tucci.

THE MOVIE: Sicario

THE MEAL: Fish and chips

The pair fell head over heals in love over their shared affection for food. In 2014 they published The Tucci Table, a collection of familial recipes inspired by their respective Italian and British upbringings.

Emily's chicken noodle soup — the reason Krasinski wanted to be her husband, she says — is included.

So too is a recipe for fish and chips, a dish seeped in nostalgia for the Blunt siblings.

One of Felicity's earliest memories is picking up "huge pieces of deep-fried cod and all sorts of odd-shaped chips" after seeing a movie with Emily and their Nanna.

Let me be frank: Even if Stanley Tucci himself assures me that making fish and chips at home is relatively easy, I will never do it — not when every day after work I bike past Chippy's, which has been serving up Guinness-battered strips of fish and crispy chips for a dozen years.

It's been a couple of years since Chippy's siren-like call of deep-fried aroma has lured me in.

But on a recent weekday night, with no groceries at home to speak of, I succumbed. Although the shop now has an Interac machine — and moderate indie rock had replaced deafening heavy metal — not much has changed. Within five minutes I had two orders of halibut and chips secured in a brown paper bag. Thirty minutes after that, the bag was ripped, like a raccoon got at it, and discarded on the living room floor while we devoured its gloriously greasy contents with our hands.

Fighting over the curry sauce was like the Hunger Games — only there was no Stanley Tucci to bring levity to the chaos.

Lesson learned: next time, bring home more sauce.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

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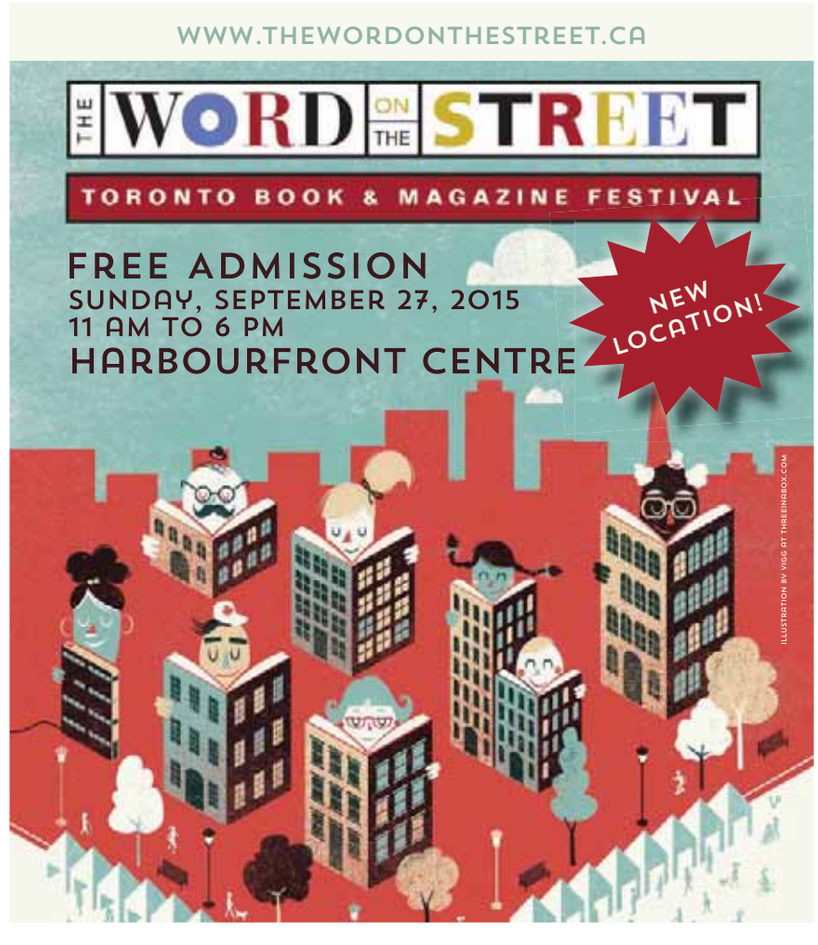

Villeneuve won't surf on past success

Denis Villeneuve has just rolled out Sicario and there is already talk of another one. NATHAN DENETTE/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

Q&A

Director on sequels and chasing his dreams

Denis Villeneuve is in demand.

The Quebec director rattles off the back-to-back projects that have kept him criss-crossing the globe on movie shoots and promotional tours and guesses he might have time to sleep in 2018.

Right now he's focused on the theatrical roll-out of his cartel saga Sicario, a searing look at the Mexican drug war starring Emily Blunt as an idealistic FBI agent and Benicio Del Toro as an enigmatic assassin. It opens Friday in select theatres in Canada.

He's also consumed with editing his alien flick Story of Your Life with Amy Adams and Jeremy Renner — duties that carry right into pre-production for the Blade Runner reboot starring Harrison Ford and Ryan Gosling.

Villeneuve doesn't expect to be ready to go to camera for that hot title before the end of 2016.

The Canadian Press caught up with the Oscar-nominated filmmaker to discuss sequels, his Hollywood dreams, and sidestepping Legally Blonde 7.

Sicario hasn't fully opened yet but there's already talk of a sequel.

The characters are very strong and Taylor Sheridan's screenplay ... was very powerful. The thing is that Lionsgate is very proud of the film and before the release they were starting to think, "What if? What if?" I'm not closed to the idea, I think it all depends on if Taylor can write something that is as good as the first one.... I believe in sequels if they are better. I will not do something that is surfing on the success of the first one.

Of course. Otherwise why would you helm a Blade Runner reboot?

It's true. In a way I feel that the (Blade Runner) screenplay I read that Hampton Fancher, Ridley Scott and Michael Green wrote is a very powerful screenplay and I feel that there's a real strong movie that can be born out of this screenplay. That's why I agreed to do it.

And fitting that this comes on the heels of another sci-fi project with Amy Adams.

I've been dreaming to do sci-fi since I was 10 years old. It's been a while that I've been looking for a project that would allow me to go into that genre. But Story of Your Life is a very different project than Prisoners or Sicario — it deals with more light than shadows. After I made five movies back-to-back that were dealing with darkness I needed a break.

Your pace has been relentless.

It's a matter of circumstances. It's a matter of movies being green-lit in a very fast pace. Usually it's slower.... After Blade Runner if things are going according to the plan, I will take a break. I will need a break after that just to think and to dream a little bit more. And to sleep.

> **I feel that there's a real strong movie that can be born out of this screenplay. That's why I agreed to do it.**
>
> Denis Villeneuve, on doing a Blade Runner reboot

It must be hard to say no when Hollywood comes calling.

When I agreed to do Prisoners ... I was afraid to do it because I was afraid to be crushed, that I would lose my identity as a filmmaker in that system. But the opposite happened. The producer in the studio behind the project protected me and they cared for my vision so it was a nice experience and I decided to go on. What (excites) me is that I'm given the opportunity to work with artists that I really admire, that I'm learning a lot with. Also there's things I can do that I will not be able to do here. Like, for instance in Sicario, the battle on the bridge is more expensive than a feature film here, you know. It's things that are not possible to do at home and as a filmmaker. I have dreams that I can try there and so it's a challenge. It's very, very exciting. I cannot say no. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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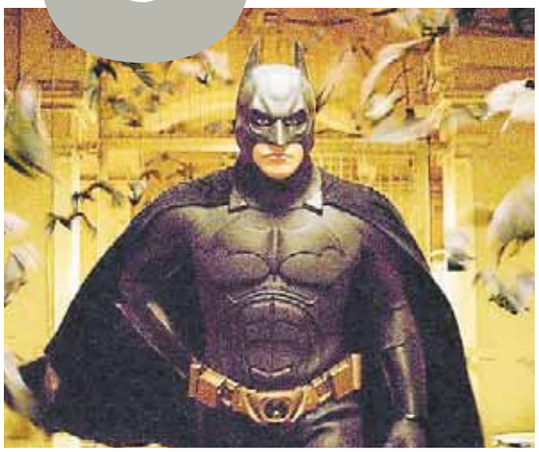
5 FILMS THAT DARED TO SING HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Until this week's landmark ruling from a Californian District Court that put Happy Birthday to You in the public domain, film and television studios wouldn't use the song to avoid licensing costs. We look at five films that ran against the grain. **AFP**



1 Batman Begins

30-year-old Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) enters to a polite, string-accompanied Happy Birthday sung by friends and acquaintances. That establishes his status as a well-esteemed member of high society, right up until the moment he's confronted by Ra's al Ghul (Liam Neeson) and has to throw out his guests and trash a carefully curated reputation. Batman Begins was, of course, a Warner Bros film, the studio having held the Happy Birthday license since 1988.

2 Office Space

Professional awkwardness at its comic, toe-curling best as an enterprise's worth of disgruntled employees mumble Happy Birthday to their privileged, presumptuous Initech boss Bill Lumbergh (Gary Cole). No. 1 outcast Milton (Stephen Root) doesn't get the piece of cake he was promised, further contributing to the character's unfortunate decline.

3 Full Metal Jacket

Unlike Initech's VP Lumbergh, Gunnery Sgt. Hartman can actually command a rousing recitation of the traditional birthday song, performed on Christmas Day and personally addressed to Jesus, before reminding his troops of who it is that currently claims possession of their recently recruited behinds.

4 2001: A Space Odyssey

Director Stanley Kubrick knew how to make good use of Happy Birthday to You, having already used it a full 10 years before FMJ in his sci-fi Arthur C. Clarke adaptation. Contrasting with the later war epic, here the song was used not to emphasize social bonds, however intentionally forged, but the isolation experienced by space station doctor Frank Poole.

5 Old School

Sean William Scott is in charge of a miniature pony at a kid's birthday party thrown by Bernard Campbell (Vince Vaughn); Scott's character drops an f-bomb and a tranquilizer gun in the pony's pen and when Frank (Will Ferrell) accidentally shoots a dart into his own neck, a muddy, lethargic Happy Birthday becomes the soundtrack for a cake-crushing rampage.

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One of those 'no acting required' gigs

EVEREST

Cast and crew braved altitude sickness, icy temperatures

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

Jason Clarke battles the elements in Everest, recreating the true story of a disastrous trip to the summit of the tallest mountain in the world. While most would assume it was all movie magic, the Australian reveals the reality.

Australian actor Jason Clarke stars as Rob Hall, who leads the expedition in the film Everest. UNIVERSAL PICTURES VIA AP

What was shot outside and how much was staged?
We started off, we went to Kathmandu. We flew in there and shot all that stuff that you see there, and then we did basically the hike up to base camp, but we chop it up because of time. You start shooting at 12,000 to 16,000 feet. That was an issue because normally to acclimatize the group will take two and a half weeks to climb up to that point, at which point you're ready to hang out at base camp for a month before you go for the summit. We had to go up and down quite quickly, so people were affected. There was a scene where we were up with the memorials to the dead people, that was shot at 16,000 feet just around the corner from base camp.

That sounds amazing, but terrifying.
Sure, but oh my God, it was special. We then went to the Alps in Italy, and we shot a lot of the southeast ridge and the external stuff on the peaks up there between 10,000 and 13,000 feet. It was (-30 C) in winter, so it was cold and snowy. Pretty much the only stuff we shot on the stage was the actual summit itself and the Hillary Steps stuff....

The costumes and the beard and being so bundled up, you don't really have to worry about makeup and hair things like that. I mean, when we got to that stage they stuck in this weird gel stuff that was horrible, but no. It was one of those "no acting required" gigs.

Were you much of a hiker or climber before this?
Yeah, more so a lot of hiking. I'd done some climbing, and then I did a lot of big climbs to get ready for it back in New Zealand and then in Scotland just to kind of get a sense of what it's like to be out when it's f—ed up and just take it.

You're doing a New Zealand accent in this, and I feel like every time I see you, you're doing some accent different than your own.
I prefer to do an accent. It's one way to find character. For this next role I'm learning the violin and fencing. The work itself helps you find the character. If things weren't difficult to do, I'd probably be lazy. And I actually prefer to work with accents, when there's a voice. I remember Heath (Ledger) in Brokeback Mountain, that voice that he had. That just was his character. It was amazing.

One thing I appreciated about this movie is the restraint with which it handles death scenes. The people are just there one second and not there the next.
That's Baltasar (Kormakur) sticking to his story and knowing his story and saying, "This is the movie that I'm making." And understanding the power of good story. He knew exactly the line and kept us on that line.

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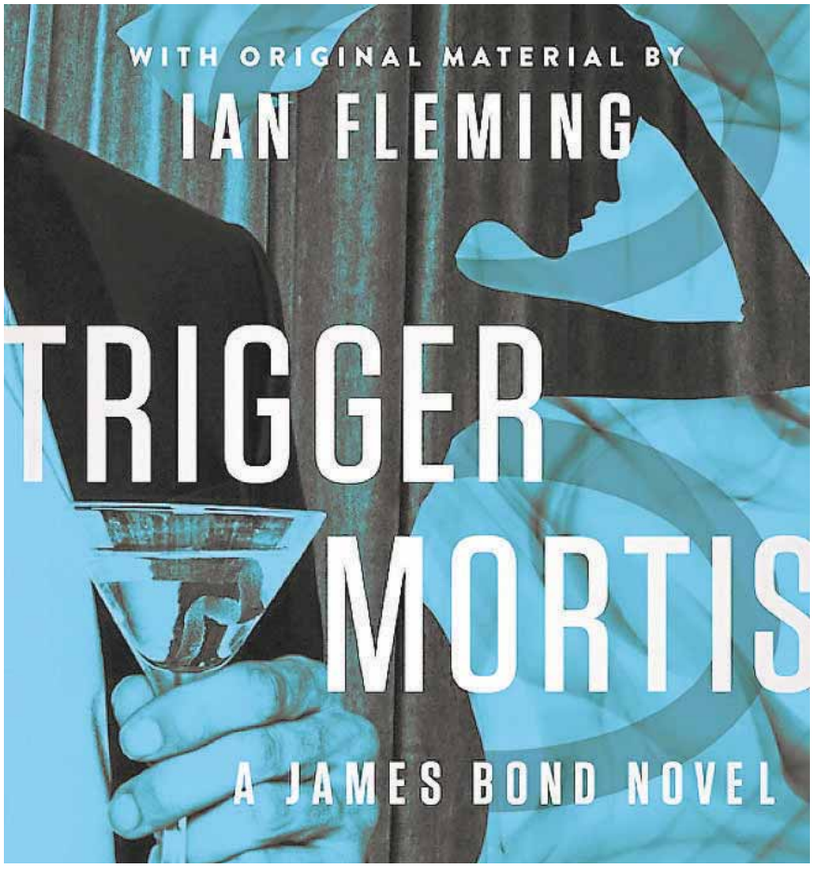

EBOOKS

Trigger Mortis

- **By Ian Fleming**
- **Kindle/iBooks/Kobo**

Drawing upon Ian Fleming's own notes, this Goldfinger sequel remains true to James Bond's dated, 1950's behaviour for an implausibly inventive adventure involving space rockets, racing cars, and a deck of deadly playing cards. Even Pussy Galore makes a much-appreciated return.

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Combining weather forecasts with the Air Quality Index, this app predicts pollution levels in your city to help advise you on potential health effects and pick the best times to enjoy outdoor activities.

TV SPECIALS

After scandal, TLC to spotlight Duggar daughters

Months after a scandal involving a member of the Duggar family shut down TLC's long-running reality hit 19 Kids and Counting, the network is resuming its on-air relationship with the Arkansas brood by starring daughters Jill and Jessa in two or more specials.

Production begins soon on the programs, announced Thursday, with an anticipated airdate by year-end for at least the first of them. Two or three are currently planned, the network said.

So far untitled, they will feature Jill Dillard, 24, who, with her husband, Derick, and their infant son are preparing to move to El Salvador for missionary work, and sister Jessa Seewald, 22, who with her husband Ben is expecting their first child on Nov. 1.

A production source who spoke on the condition of anonymity said the programs will not include 27-year-old Josh Duggar, the oldest of the Duggar siblings and the subject of revelations last May that, as a teenager, had fondled four of his sisters, including Jill and Jessa. More recently he publicly apologized for a pornography addiction and cheating on his wife. The source said he will not appear on any future TLC programming.

"What we will be following in these specials is Jessa preparing for her first child," said Nancy Daniels, TLC executive vice-president. "And we'll be watching Jill preparing to make a major move to Central America with her family, which we know is something our audience will be interested in."

"(Jessa and Jill) are both at the precipice of big changes.
TLC VP Nancy Daniels

The project, Daniels said, came together quickly "after talking with the girls and understanding that this was something they wanted to do.

"We know that our audience is really excited about what's been going on with Jill and Jessa as they move into young adulthood," said Daniels. "And now they're both at the precipice of big changes. With what was happening in their lives in the next few months, it felt like now is the time (for the specials)."

The specials will be following a documentary TLC commissioned and aired to raise awareness of child sexual abuse nationwide.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ben Seewald, Jessa Seewald, Jill Dillard, holding her baby Israel Dillard and Derick Dillard. TLC VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAMER BRIEFS

Call of Duty launches a global e-sports league

As Activision gets set to release its latest Call of Duty video game title, it has announced the launch of a worldwide e-sports league in support of the franchise.

The Call of Duty World League will include two Divisions — The Pro Division and The Challenge Division for amateur and aspiring professional players — each feeding into the Call of Duty Championship.

The Pro Division begins competition in January 2016 in North America, Europe, and Australia and New Zealand.

The Call of Duty Championship is due to take place in the fall of 2016.

AFP

YouTube star Helbig is making it offline

INTERVIEW

She's tackled network TV, live comedy and publishing

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada

Despite the raunchy innuendo of her podcast title, Not Too Deep, Grace Helbig's comedy is more blithe than risqué.

"I feel like dark comedy doesn't look good on me for some reason," says Helbig, 29, who this summer wrapped the first season of her self-titled talk show on E! network. "I have more fun when I try to approach comedy from a slightly more positive and silly angle."

Helbig, who made a name for herself on YouTube where she has 2.7 million subscribers, is performing this Saturday at Just For Laughs comedy festival in Toronto with someone who just might balance out her sweetness — Epic Meal Time's Harley Morenstein, whom she accurately describes as a "six-foot-four bearded, burly dude." Morenstein is known for attacking recipes on his preposterous cooking show with the swagger and F-bomb frequency of a gansta-rap star wannabe. "But he giggles like a 12-year-old Catholic schoolgirl," says Helbig.

She hopes the two of them will deliver a paired-down, mellow and "strictly dumb" live podcast show for an in-person audience that's likely to be split in half between YouTube fans and more traditional standup comedy goers.

The future of the Grace Helbig Show on E! is up in the air. The sketch show bore a similar style to her online video clips — bright graphics paired with childish games such as such as rolling around in Velcro suits with her fellow YouTubers. The main difference is that the TV show also featured traditional celebs like Jack Black and Dwayne Johnson, but still incorporated fan participation into the scripts. In her interview with Johnson, for instance, Helbig reads a social media comment: "I heard all he has to do is look at a pistachio and it cracks itself open," after which she hands him a nut and a green laser shoots out of Johnson's eyes.

"We're trying to restructure," says Helbig, of the show, admitting it was a learning curve for both her and the network. The show last spring debuted to 227,000 viewers in a Friday night time slot — an underwhelming number if compared to Chelsea Handler's Chelsea Lately, which brought in approximately 600,000 viewers a night towards the end of its run.

"Media in general is constantly changing and evolving. It will probably be different when we get off this phone call than it was before jumped on," she says. "We all learned a lot about trying to bring the Internet to TV, to an audience that ... watches The Kardashians more than they watch Jenna Marbles."

> **There was GiGi Gorgeous sitting directly next to Paula Abdul. In my mind I was like, this is what the Internet looks like in real life.**
> Grace Helbig, on the Streamy Awards show

Still, Helbig, perhaps more than any other YouTube star, has had a lot of success in crossing back and forth between the traditional and digital platforms. Last year her first book, Grace's Guide: The Art of Pretending to be Grownup hit No. 1 on the New York Times Bestseller list in the advice category a week after launch. She's following it up with a new book out this February titled Grace & Style: The Art of Pretending You Have it.

"It's a tongue-in-cheek style guide and kind of a random brain-smattering of my thoughts on beauty and fashion. I kind of have been calling it a f—d up Pinterest board in a way," she says.

She also recently wrapped production on a reboot of the '70s Electra Woman and the Dyna Girl, which is expected to launch as a series some time this winter.

"We shot in Vancouver for a month and a half which was really cool. We didn't do too much prep. We learned firsthand we probably should have lifted a few weights or something before we got up there," she says of her co-star and frequent collaborator Hannah Hart. "It was a humbling experience because there are some really tacky spandex suits that we have to wear."

Grace Helbig will perform at Just For Laughs. HANDOUT

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MUSIC BRIEFS

Adele. GETTY IMAGES

Adele to release single, album in November

Singer Adele's highly anticipated third album will see the light of day on Nov. 20, according to a news report. Hits Daily Double revealed the album date, also reporting the singer plans to reveal a lead single from the album in the first or second week of November.

AFP

Sia is feeling Alive with new track

Australian singer Sia has revealed her newest track, Alive, which will have a spot on her upcoming album.

The LP, This is Acting, will comprise songs Sia originally wrote for other artists, and Alive was written with British singer Adele in mind.

AFP

Sia GETTY IMAGES

Passenger is in the driver's seat

PROFILE

Singer Mike Rosenberg reflects on his massive hit

Emily Laurence
Metro | New York

Considering Passenger's single Let Her Go spent a massive 45 weeks at No. 1 in the U.K. and 28 weeks (and counting) on Billboard's Hot 100 charts in the U.S., it's hard to believe Mike Rosenberg (the man behind the moniker) was considering giving up music all together not that long ago. He shares what kept him going when he hit rock bottom.

Going solo

Passenger may be a one-man show now, but originally, it was a full band. When the band broke up in 2009, going solo didn't even occur to Rosenberg. But he booked some solo gigs while visiting a friend in Australia and says the crowd connected deeper than ever before. "Suddenly, people could hear every word and really understand it," Rosenberg says. "It was a massive turning point."

Quarterlife crisis

But that wasn't the only time Rosenberg considered giving up. While working on his second album Whispers, released in 2014, he hit a low point. "I was 27 and had been busking and putting out my own records for four or five years and I just didn't feel like it was growing at all," he remembers. Rosenberg put all his frustrations down on paper, which later became his song 27.

He says the very act of feeling his passion overflowing reignited his ambition and reminded him why he wanted to be a musician in the first place.

"Obviously every (musician) dreams of playing to thousands of people and having the No. 1 song, but that's not the reason you do it," he says. "The reason you do it is because you're trying to create something that means something to people and to yourself. It's helpful to remind yourself of that sometimes."

Mike Rosenberg, the one-man show behind Passenger, says he almost gave up before finding success with his massive hit Let Her Go. PHOTO CREDIT IN SMALL CAPS

> **"It started off as a really heart-wrenching breakup song, but now, for me, it's such a treasured thing"**
> Mike Rosenberg on his hit Let Her Go

Taking it to the streets

Despite his massive success, Rosenberg still enjoys busking, something he started after the band broke up and he needed money. "Looking back on it, those were some of the best years of my life," he says.

"I still love busking because not everyone can go to a concert. They might not be able to afford it or they might not be old enough."

Turning pain into poetry

All of the songs Rosenberg writes are personal and often painful, but he says it's a joy to share them. "When (I) write them, it can be a very painful thing because it's still fresh. But as time goes on, I still remember the girl or the situation, but it turns into something different," he says. "Especially with Let Her Go since it's known around the world now. It started off as a really heart-wrenching breakup song, but now, for me, it's such a treasured thing."

JUDGING SUCCESS

Why album sales don't matter anymore

Alan Cross
For Metro Canada

Back in the day, it was all about record sales.

Artists and labels worked hard to push releases up the charts to create a virtuous circle of popularity.

The higher the chart position, the more people paid attention. That led to more radio airplay which inevitably resulted in more sales. A No. 1 song or album on the Billboard charts generated untold millions of dollars for everyone.

We're still in the habit of judging the success of a release by its sales figures. Just as we get reports on weekend box office numbers for movies (as if the movie that makes the most money makes it the best), we still hear where records rank on the charts.

I'm guilty of it, too. Every week on my website, ajournalofmusicalthings.com, I publish a summary and analysis of the week's physical and digital music sales. But I think I'm going to stop doing that.

Why? Because raw sales just don't matter anymore.

Before streaming, before the Internet, the weekly SoundScan numbers meant something.

Buying music was the only way you could listen to it on your own time.

But with streaming, we have access to tens of millions of songs for free. Why buy anything anymore?

In the old days, it was routine for a big album to have first week sales well into six figures and then settle into the high five figures for weeks.

A not-insignificant number of albums debuted with sales of a million copies or more.

Now consider this week's album sales.

The Weeknd can brag of being No. 1 again on both sides of the border with Beauty Behind the Madness, but let's dig into the actual numbers.

He topped the charts in Canada with sales of only 6,200 copies, a sales figure that would have been considered disastrous not that long ago.

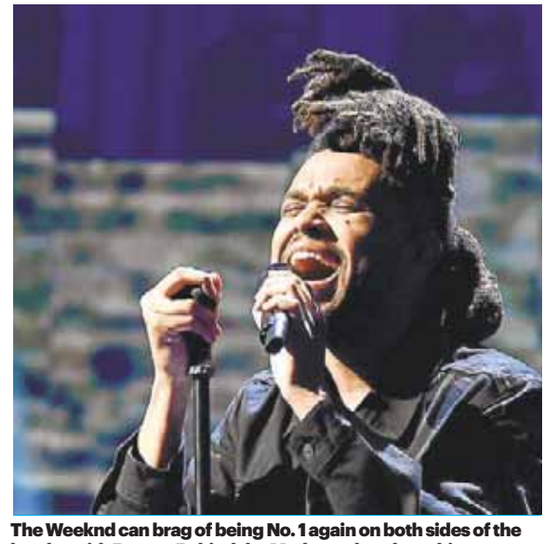
It's even weirder in the U.S. where he's No. 1 with sales of just 55,000 units in a nation of 319 million people. The bar for a No. 1 is beyond limbo-low.

We also reached an interesting tipping point this past week. For the first time, streaming revenues exceeded that of physical sales. What matters now are listens and views.

How many people streamed a song? How many accessed it through YouTube? How many times was it shared on social media?

Those are the metrics that determine a hit today.

Keep that in mind the next time someone brags about having a No. 1 record on Billboard.



The Weeknd can brag of being No. 1 again on both sides of the border with Beauty Behind the Madness, but does this even matter anymore? GETTY IMAGES

Egypt to close Tutankhamen's tomb near Luxor for restorations

A mountain immersed in myth

The three summits of the Stawamus Chief Mountain, which attracts thousands of visitors each year for its rock climbing and hiking trails. ISTOCK

SQUAMISH, B.C.

Sacred stories just part of summitting the Chief

The Stawamus Chief on Canada's West Coast is a world-renowned rock-climbing destination known for its beautiful multi-pitch routes and unrivalled crack-climbing pitches.

But many visiting outdoor enthusiasts are unaware that the iconic granite monolith also carries the scars of a legendary battle.

The region's Squamish people tell of the mythical hero Xwech'taal vanquishing the double-headed sea serpent Sinulhkay before uniting the Squamish Nation.

As Sinulhkay fled across the mountain, the creature seared a trail of defeat into the stone, which today is visible as a deep blackened cleft that runs like a scar up and over the mountain's face.

"It's a very powerful, sacred mountain that my people have admired for many years," says Ian Campbell, hereditary chief and elected councillor of the Squamish First Nation.

Campbell talks of the legendary Transformer brothers creating the Chief out of an enormous First Nations home in which all the spirit animals had gathered for a feast.

"We see it in the physical realm as a mountain, but in the spirit realm it's a longhouse," he said, describing it as a symbol of togetherness.

Today, the Stawamus Chief — pronounced stah-WAH'-muss, but known colloquially simply as the Chief — attracts thousands of visitors every year, both for its premier rock-climbing offerings but also thanks to its readily accessible hiking trails that climax in rewarding ridge-top vistas.

The mountain towers 700 metres over the head of a picturesque, inundated fjord, about 50 kilometres northwest of Vancouver. It cuts a striking image from afar, visible at the base of the scenic Sea-to-Sky Highway as a radiant granite sentinel, standing watch over the sleepy community of Squamish. The monolith is the namesake of the First Nation settlement of Stawamus, located immediately at its foot.

Looking down from the first of its three rounded granite summits, the slithering Squamish River can be seen reaching the salty waters of Howe Sound, which ripple between shades of teal and aquamarine under a shifting, cloud-covered sky.

The initial peak is accessible about 1.5 kilometres from and 540 metres above the trail's starting point, while the two remaining summits are located slightly higher and farther along.

The panorama offers a view across the core of the Squamish Nation's territory.

To the north, the snow-streaked slopes of Nch'kay — also known as Mount Garibaldi — angle into the high-ceilinged clouds. Nch'kay played a prominent role in the Squamish Nation's creation story, offering sanctuary to the region's people during the great flood, explains Campbell.

The site also provides crucial nesting habitat to the peregrine falcon, prompting periodic closures of certain climbing routes throughout the year.

On any given summer day, small coloured specks can be made out dotting the mountain's face, indicating yet another band of climbers who have opted for the more direct, albeit somewhat more challenging, path to the peak.

A middle-aged couple from Michigan braved the moss-covered crag and scrambled up the occasional metal ladder and chain to reach the first peak.

"You just can't do justice to this place," says David McGreaham, marvelling at the view with his wife Kathy. "This is something I'll remember."

Other visitors come from farther afield. Ludovic Minne of France was about to wrap up two weeks of climbing and hiking in the Pacific Northwest.

"The view is just amazing — really, really beautiful," he said, smiling broadly as he describes watching the sunset from the summit the night before.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IF YOU GO

Consult the B.C. Parks website for more information: www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks

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TRAVEL NOTES MEXICO MYSTERIES, HERITAGE TOURS AND LONDON FLIGHTS

Adventure discount
Intrepid Travel is offering 20 per cent off its Mayan Expedition departing Nov. 14 if you book before Oct. 31. The trip follows in the footsteps of archeologist Giles Healy to search for unnamed ruins. Machete your way through the jungle, raft forgotten rivers, camp beneath the trees and explore ancient architecture. Now $2,444. Visit IntrepidTravel.com/theme/expeditions.

Search for lost ruins in Mexico. CONTRIBUTED

Custom cultural tours
New U.K.-based tour operator Battered Suitcase will tailor-make a holiday for you that hits the UNESCO World Heritage Sites and historical cultural destinations on your bucket list on five continents. Tours are created by people with a passion for history and knowledge of the ancient sites, with local guides and private hotels ensuring a personal experience. Visit Battered-Suitcase.com.

The Temple of Heaven, Beijing. CONTRIBUTED

WestJet to the U.K.
WestJet will start flying non-stop to London Gatwick from Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto and St. John's, N.L., next year, from May to October. This is the airline's first non-stop service to London and the only non-stop flight from Winnipeg. The number of flights per week vary per city, with Toronto and St. John's operating once a day. Visit WestJet.com. DOUG WALLACE

New non-stop flights head to London. VISITBRITAIN.COM

Art goes pop at L.A.'s The Broad

NEW MUSEUM

City's cultural status gets a boost with $140M space

Clockwise from left: Visitors view Robert Therrien's Under the Table at the The Broad, a pop-art-styled museum in downtown Los Angeles that features a unique lobby and a white, honeycombed exterior. RICHARD VOGEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When he arrived in Los Angeles more than 50 years ago, Eli Broad once said, he found himself in a city without a cultural centre. So the billionaire arts patron decided to build one.

On Sept. 20, that effort took a major step forward with the opening of The Broad, a shining, pop-art-styled museum holding 2,000 works by arguably every important contemporary artist of the past 60 years.

The $140-million project featuring 50,000 square feet of exhibition space is the most recent accomplishment in Broad's ongoing effort to remake a once seedy section of downtown Los Angeles into the cultural arts centre he has long envisioned.

But more than that, says Joanne Heyler, a veteran curator and the new museum's director, The Broad stands to remake Los Angeles into the nation's contemporary art capital.

"Los Angeles is now a place, a city, where if you're serious about collecting contemporary art, if you're serious about understanding contemporary art, you cannot not come here," she said as she led a recent tour through the museum.

The three-storey building is almost as much a pop-art creation as the numerous works by Andy Warhol, Cindy Sherman, Chris Burden and scores of others that it contains.

Its unusual appearance, created by Diller Scofidio Renfro, the architectural firm that envisioned New York City's High Line park, features a white, honeycombed "veil" made of fibreglass-reinforced concrete. It's a wrapping that envelops the building from its roof to the ground, providing an enclosed public sidewalk from which passersby can gaze in at some of the works.

The museum itself sits directly across the street from L.A.'s Museum of Contemporary Art and is next door to the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Inside, the lobby resembles an Apple store, with museum "associates" armed with smartphones wandering the floor, checking visitors in and directing them to the nearly two dozen galleries.

Although admission is free, reservations are recommended so visitors can get in at the times they prefer. With works arranged chronologically, first-time visitors are advised to take an escalator to the third floor, where among the first things they'll see is Jeff Koons' brilliantly colourful Tulips sculpture.

Around the corner will be many of the most influential pop-art works of the 1960s, including Warhol's famous Small Torn Campbell's Soup Can (Pepper Pot) and other prominent pieces by Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg.

From there it's a trip through the pop, abstract and contemporary art worlds of the 1960s, '70s, '80s and '90s, with paintings, sculptures, photographs and other works by the likes of Ed Ruscha, Roy Lichtenstein, Charles Ray and others.

Among the many highlights are Ruscha's heralded Norms La Cienega On Fire painting and Koons' stunning porcelain sculpture of Michael Jackson and his pet chimp Bubbles.

On the first floor, in a darkened gallery, is Ragnar Kjartansson's whimsical performance-art piece The Visitors. Displayed on nine video screens, it features musicians playing and singing a brief musical snippet inspired by the group Abba over and over for more than an hour. Among the performers is the Icelandic artist himself, who sits naked in a bathtub, strumming his guitar.

The second floor holds the museum's vault and, thanks to a large porthole, visitors will actually be able to look into it and see works not currently on display. It's a vault being constantly added to, said Heyler, who noted that the museum acquires an average of one new work a week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The Yellow Backie, like "couchsurfing on a bike." 2015 YOUTUBE, LLC

RIDESHARE SCHEME

Hitchhike on a bike in Amsterdam

A team of entrepreneurs in Amsterdam has come up with perhaps the most quintessentially Dutch way to hitchhike: on a bike.

The scheme called Yellow Backie is designed with the tourist in mind, offering visitors an authentic way to the see the city and meet a local.

Hitching a ride on the back of a friend's bike is a common way for locals to get around the city.

Described as being akin to "couchsurfing on a bike," the concept invites Amsterdammers who are open to meeting new people to replace the luggage rack on the back of their bike with a yellow rack, provided for free by the bike tour and rental company.

Tourists will be able to identify participants by the distinctive yellow seat and flag down a ride by yelling, "Backie!"

Unlike a cab or Uber ride, however, the principle behind the idea is for visitors to let their driver serve as an impromptu tour guide.

The program is free and is app-free. AFP

Set up Nexus interview at land border, not airport

ON THE MOVE

Answering your Qs on hotel deals, travel ID cards and more

Loren Christie
For Metro Canada

Time to dip into the Metro mailbag and respond to some readers' questions.

How can you ensure you are getting the best deal for your hotel room?

With the number of online travel agencies, wholesalers and consolidators out there, trying to figure out who offers the best value can be overwhelming. And remember it's important to consider the best value versus the best deal because you really do get what you pay for. Your great deal may end up being the room that hasn't been renovated in 10 years that overlooks a brick wall. Or perhaps your amazingly cheap room might be at a hotel that ends up charging you exorbitant rates for your parking and breakfast. You need to evaluate all of the costs associated with the hotel you are choosing.

For the best value consider booking an accommodation package. Hotels sell their cheapest rooms to companies willing to bury the rate in the cost of a package, which could include breakfast, parking, attractions passes or other value-adds.

Thoughts on a Nexus card?

This bi-national pre-approved customs and immigration pass will help speed you through customs lines on both sides of the border. Apply online and once you are initially approved, you then go for a personal interview. Set up your application interview appointment at a land border, not the airport. The waiting list at the airport can take a long time whereas land borders can often process you within days.

Are repositioning cruises a good deal?

When ships relocate from one part of the world to sail in another it is called a repositioning cruise. The deals can be as much as 70 per cent off the cost of a regular cruise. However, be prepared for more days at sea, potentially costly one-way flights and travel to destinations in the shoulder seasons.

What is the difference between a four- and five-star hotel in the Caribbean?

Unlike North American hotels, where stars indicate a level of quality, the star rating systems of Caribbean resorts serve to differentiate the services and amenities offered. Additionally, different tour operators use varied criteria for awarding the stars. For example, the difference between a four-star and five-star hotel may be that one has a tennis court while the other does not. So if you are a beach bum who has never picked up a racket, why not save some money and stay at the lower-rated property?

Repositioning cruises may seem like a great deal, but beware of hidden costs. ISTOCK

TAKE A SECOND LOOK
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Embracing Mexico's street art

CO-OPERATIVE

New wave of mural painters turn to social media to update old tradition

Storm troopers adorn the Michoacan Market in the Condesa neighborhood.

Street artists Jenaro de Rosenzweig, left, and Alejandro Revilla pose for a portrait behind a restaurant's window covered with a mural by artist Francisco Munoz in the Roma Norte neighborhood of Mexico City. ALL PHOTOS REBECCA BLACKWELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A mural by Beatriz Avila Haro decorates the exterior wall of Delirio restaurant.

Mexico's mural art is getting a modern makeover.

Former graffiti taggers and graphic designers have joined together in a co-operative called Street Art Chilango, painting walls with popular Star Wars characters and hyping their work on social media.

Founded in March 2013 by Jenaro de Rosenzweig and Alejandro Revilla, the group's name uses the slang term "chilango" for things from Mexico City.

And their murals aren't only on brick-and-mortar walls.

Rosenzweig, who goes by his artist name Jenaro, vigorously promotes the team's artworks on social networks and the group's website, streetartchilango.com. The group has garnered more than 165,000 "likes" on Facebook, 72,000 followers on Instagram, and 9,000 followers on Twitter.

"We have the muscle of the social network and the brains to put the artists to work," said Jenaro.

In April 2013, he launched the hashtag #streetartchilango so that anyone using Instagram could plot street art locations on the site's interactive Google map.

"People embraced it and started using it," he said. Suddenly, "I started meeting every artist there is."

As the virtual map attracted attention, Jenaro also designed a Mexico City walking tour that visits many of the online locations. The group still organizes tours nearly every weekend.

Though many of them started as graffiti taggers, group members can now earn a living from splashing walls with their paint.

In recent weeks, Street Art Chilango artist Andrik Figueroa Barreto, who signs his work as Andrik Noble, has produced several Star Wars-themed murals, including a 60-foot-long storm trooper mural at the Mercado Michoacan. "I don't have any studio. Everything is in the street," said the artist, whose hands, T-shirt, and shorts were covered in paint smudges of a dozen different colours.

Business owner Pascual Medina Ortiz smiled as he pointed out a spray-painted image of Princess Leia on the front of his shop in the Condesa neighbourhood. "Now a lot of people are coming just to see the art."

Murals and street art have a long history in Mexico. Beginning in the 1920s, Diego Rivera, David Siqueiros, and Jose Orozco painted public buildings with social and political messages, establishing murals as a preeminent Mexican art form.

"So painting walls was already cool in Mexico," said Jenaro.

The group's next step comes in November at the Art Basel festival in Miami, where Jenaro and Avila aim to display a mural to an international audience. "We are going to create new stuff that will blow the whole world's minds open," Jenaro said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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What lies ahead for the Blue Jays

MLB

After all but slaying the Yankees, team controls fate

The Toronto Blue Jays are in the American League East driver's seat. They are the favourites to win the division title and are a virtual lock to make their first playoff appearance in 22 years.

Here are five things to watch as the regular season winds down:

PRICE POSITION

The Blue Jays acquired ace David Price at the trade deadline to handle big games — especially against the New York Yankees — over the playoff push in the second half. With an 8-1 record and 1.95 earned-run average since joining Toronto, he has come as advertised.

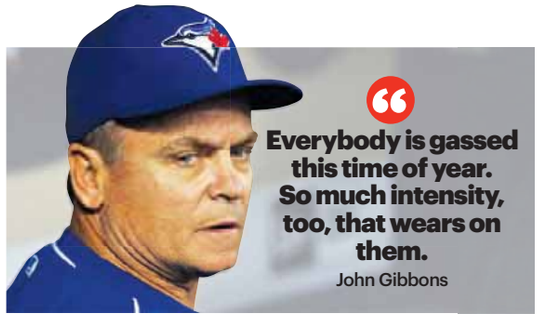
His next start is scheduled for Saturday against the visiting Tampa Bay Rays and he'll get another start next week in Baltimore.

If the Blue Jays fall into a wild-card position, Price could be used in the Oct. 6 game on five days rest. But it's much more likely they'll take the East title and start him in the American League Division Series opener on Oct. 8.

Knuckleballer R.A. Dickey will start against the Rays on Friday night and veteran southpaw Mark Buehrle will close out the homestand on Sunday.

EAST FEAST

It has been an American League East-heavy schedule for the first-place Blue Jays of late and they'll continue that trend for the remaining 10 games.



"Everybody is gassed this time of year. So much intensity, too, that wears on them."
John Gibbons

After the home schedule is completed Sunday against the Rays, it's on to Baltimore for four games before wrapping the campaign with three games at Tampa Bay.

The second-place Yankees are three games behind the Blue Jays, and are at home for four-game sets against the Chicago White Sox and Boston Red Sox before closing their season with a three-game series in Baltimore.

REST EASIER

The 162-game regular season is a long one and any time off around this time of year is precious.

The Yankees have games scheduled every day until their finale Oct. 4. The Blue Jays, who have played one more game than New York, got a break Thursday before kicking off their last home series against Tampa Bay on Friday night.

"That's got to help us, everybody is gassed this time of year," said Blue Jays manager John Gibbons. "So much intensity too, that wears on them."

POWER PLAY

Toronto's offence has cooled a bit of late but the team should still finish first in several offensive categories this season.

The Blue Jays lead the major leagues in runs scored, home runs, slugging percentage and OPS (on-base percentage plus slugging). Toronto also has three players — Josh Donaldson, Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion — who have reached the 35-homer and 100-RBI plateaus.

It's only the second time in franchise history that three players have accomplished the feat in the same year.

The 1998 Blue Jays boasted a power trio that included Jose Canseco (46 homers, 107 RBIs), Carlos Delgado (38-115) and Shawn Green (35-100).

Donaldson leads the way this year with 39 homers and 120 RBIs. Bautista has 36 homers — one more than Encarnacion — and both have 105 RBIs.

ALDS PLANS

The Blue Jays have an idea of the rotation they'd like to use in the best-of-five ALDS, but they don't want to get too far ahead of themselves.

If they win the division, expect Price to work two games with Dickey and Marcus Stroman likely to get starts as well. If that happens, the Blue Jays would then have to decide whether to go with Marco Estrada or Buehrle for the remaining nod.

The ALDS is a best-of-five affair Oct. 8-14. The American League Championship Series is set for Oct. 16-24 and the World Series — also a best-of-seven series — is Oct. 27-Nov. 4. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Carlos Beltran watches his three-run homer leave Yankee Stadium on Thursday night. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AL EAST

Yankees inch closer to playoff position

Carlos Beltran hit a three-run homer off White Sox ace Chris Sale, leading Michael Pineda and the New York Yankees past Chicago 3-2 Thursday night in their push for a playoff spot.

After a tribute before their first home game since October great Yogi Berra died, the Yankees closed within three games of idle Toronto in the AL East. New York cut its magic number to six for clinching at least a wild-card slot.

Beltran, a post-season star throughout his career, gave the Yankees a boost to begin their final homestand of the season. He connected in the third inning for his 18th homer, a line drive that a young boy in the front row of the left-field seats neatly gloved.

Pineda (12-8) gave up one run, on Trayce Thompson's homer, in six innings. He improved the best strikeout-to-walk ratio in the AL, fanning six without a free pass. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THURSDAY In New York

3	2
YANKEES	WHITE SOX

IN BRIEF

Pirates earn 10,000th win after downing Rockies

Pedro Alvarez hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the eighth inning, and the Pittsburgh Pirates earned their 10,000th win since joining the National League, beating the Colorado Rockies 5-4 on Thursday.

A day after clinching a playoff spot for the third straight season, the Pirates reached another momentous milestone. They're fifth all-time in NL wins behind San Francisco, Chicago, Atlanta and Los Angeles, according to STATS. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pedro Alvarez
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dodgers trim magic number to four for NL West crown

Chris Heisey hit a grand slam during the Dodgers' six-run fifth inning, and Los Angeles trimmed its magic number to four for the NL West crown and a post-season berth with a 6-3 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Thursday.

Los Angeles increased its NL West lead to 7-1/2 games over the Giants, who faced San Diego later.

Clayton Kershaw (15-7) had nine strikeouts while yielding six hits and three runs over five innings. He also had a vehement dugout discussion with Don Mattingly after the manager pulled Kershaw from his shortest start of the season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for more baseball coverage.

Marincin's merits readily apparent

NHL PRE-SEASON

Leafs' big blue line acquisition turning heads at training camp

It was no surprise that Martin Marincin was the first player the Maple Leafs acquired following the hiring of new coach Mike Babcock.

A 23-year-old defenceman with size, reach and above-average skating, Marincin put up excellent possession metrics in Edmonton, making him an apparent good fit with Babcock's system, which uses structure and puck possession as the foundations for success.

Marincin, who spent two years in the Edmonton organization, prompted local bloggers and analytics experts to rave about him after they customized algorithms for possession, zone starts and defensive zone entry breakups. They discovered the native of Slovakia was the Oilers' best defenceman in those indicators (especially since he paired with Jeff Petry and Mark Fayne in facing top opposition on a nightly basis).

Martin Marincin was a respectable minus-four in 41 games with the lowly Oilers last season. GETTY IMAGES

Marincin, acquired from the Oilers for Brad Ross July 27 now has an inside track to make the Leafs blue line. He brings a wealth of experience for a 23-year-old including a stint with Slovakia at the Sochi Olympics where he got daily exposure to one of the greatest defencemen in the game: Zdeno Chara.

"I think I can do everything ... but skating is important for me," Marincin said.

"I try to skate and be good at skating, it makes the game fun for me and it helps me to keep my game simple."

Marincin's presence in Leafs camp has been relatively quiet, but his solid reputation in Edmonton certainly caught Babcock's eye when he coached Detroit, and the eyes of assistant GM Kyle Dubas and the Leafs analytics experts.

Marincin essentially played half-seasons in each of his two years in Edmonton, appearing in 85 games; he was on the ice for 45 goals against on a team that finished dead last in the NHL in goals against during his two seasons.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP STENSON ON TRACK FOR $10M

Sweden's Henrik Stenson returned to East Lake in Atlanta and shot a 7-under 63 Thursday to take the lead at the opening round of the Tour Championship, two years after a dominant win to capture the FedEx Cup. No. 4 Stenson only has to win this week to claim the $10-million bonus. SAM GREENWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Hinch set for return to race car next week

Oakville's James Hinchcliffe will be back in an Indy Car for the first time since his near-fatal accident in May when he tests next week at Road America in Wisconsin.

"This is obviously the day that has been the goal and the motivation to get through the last four months," said Hinchcliffe. "And the fact that it is at Road America, one of my favourite road courses in the country, makes it that much better."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bosh off the blood thinners

The Miami Heat's Chris Bosh says he no longer needs to take blood-thinning medication as part of his treatment regimen for a blood clot, meaning he will be able to fully participate when training camp opens next week.

The former star Raptors power forward missed the final 30 games of last season after a clot was discovered on his left lung. He says he has been cleared and released for contact again. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Argos add second Palardy to the party

CFL

Truro kicker called out of retirement by Toronto GM

Justin Palardy figured he was done with pro football.

The 27-year-old was helping coach a bantam boys squad in his native Truro, N.S., and preparing for a career in law enforcement when he received a surprise phone call from Toronto Argonauts GM Jim Barker on Wednesday night. On Thursday morning, Palardy was back lining up field goals after joining the Argos practice squad.

"I was completely focused on my life after football," Palardy said. "I didn't think I was ever going to play again and it didn't bother me at all, I was ready to move on.

"But 15 minutes before (the bantam team's) practice I was on the phone with Mr. Barker. I felt bad breaking the news to the kids I was coaching, I felt pretty emotional and like I was letting them down. But these opportunities don't come around very often and this could be the last one of my life so I had to jump on it, ride it and see where it goes."

Toronto (6-5) needs a punter/kicker, with incumbent Swayze Waters (groin) sidelined. The Argos also have American punter/kicker Michael Palardy — no relation — on the roster.

"I would say that's rare," Toronto head coach Scott Milanovich said about the odds of a team having two kickers with the same unusual last name.

The coincidence hasn't escaped Justin Palardy either.

"I didn't know (Michael) personally," Justin Palardy said. "I knew he played at the University of Tennessee and kind of just followed him because of his last name.

"We might be related ... I'll have to look into that and get some DNA testing or something. Apparently his family is French-Canadian and mine is French-Canadian. He's got a great last name, that's all I've got to say."

There is a very distinct difference between the two, though, as Michael Palardy is a left-footed kicker. Justin Palardy kicks with his right. "Something got mixed up," Justin Palardy said.

Milanovich said the Argos will decide Friday who'll handle what kicking duties Saturday night in Ottawa versus the Redblacks (7-4) but added "there's a chance" Justin Palardy will play.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Truro's Justin Palardy traveled to Toronto Thursday to join the Argos, who are in need of a punter/kicker.

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RECIPE BLT Ranch Burgers

After hosting sunset dinner parties for friends and family, Katie Lee, co-host of The Food Network's The Kitchen, compiled her favourite recipes into the Endless Summer Cookbook released this year.

"I made these burgers for a group of friends one afternoon and they pretty much lost their minds," she says. "The ranch dressing is rich and creamy next to the beefy burger with that crispy bacon, lettuce, and tomato."

Makes 4 burgers.

Ingredients

For the dressing:
- 1 cup (240 ml) mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup (120 ml) plain yogurt
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) buttermilk
- 2 Tbsp minced fresh chives
- 2 Tbsp minced fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 tsp garlic powder

For the burgers:
- 1 lb (455 g) lean ground beef
- 1 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 8 pieces cooked bacon, cut in half
- 1 ripe tomato, sliced
- Bibb lettuce leaves
- 4 potato buns, buttered and toasted

Directions

1. Make the dressing: Combine all the dressing ingredients and mix well.

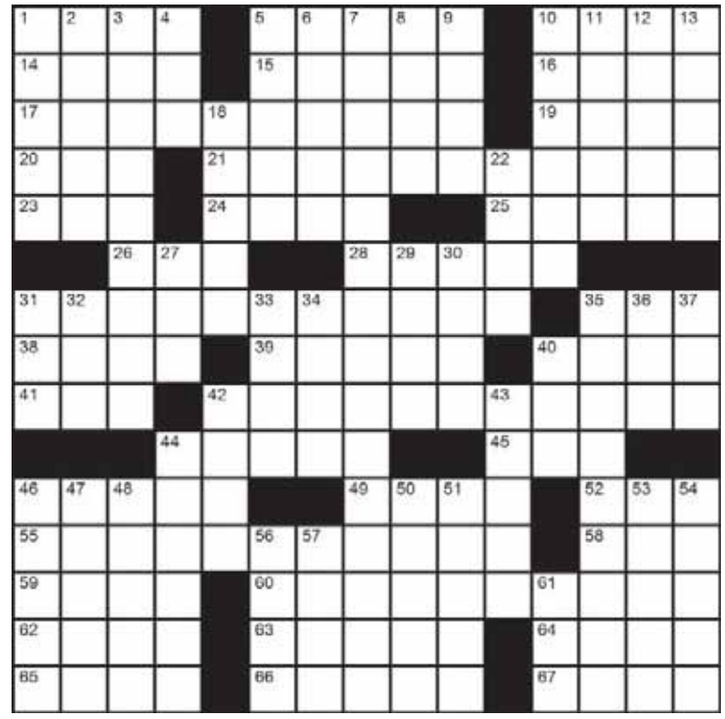
2. Make the burgers: Preheat an outdoor grill to medium-high. In a bowl, combine the beef, Worcestershire sauce, egg, salt, and pepper. Shape into four patties. Grill the patties for about 3 minutes per side for medium doneness.

3. Place each patty on a bun and top with bacon, tomato, lettuce, and a generous dollop of dressing. Serve immediately.

AFP

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS

1. Good Queen _ (Nickname for Elizabeth I, b.1533 - d.1603)
5. Jenny _ (Weight loss program)
10. Ginger cookie
14. Plant-derived gel
15. Moviedom's Mr. McDowall
16. Knitting stitch
17. Looks-like-a-lizard amphibian
19. Stewpot
20. "_ sure be nice if..."
21. Legendary marks-woman from Ohio (b.1860 - d.1926) who (apparently) got married in Canada (in Windsor) in 1882: 2 wds.
23. Floral necklace
24. Belonging to Jay Z's wife, fun-style
25. Ms. Aglukkaq (Canada's Environment Minister)
26. Music genre
28. Shrek's kin
31. _ Hawk (Largest hawk of North America that has some rusty plumage)
35. Authorize
38. Heroic verse
39. Reddish-rose dye
40. Automaker of Italy
41. Get the ribbon
42. Canadian businessman Kevin O'Leary's nickname for himself: 2 wds.
44. Rage: 2 wds.
45. Dance tip in ballet
46. Sandbank
49. Breakfast side order
52. Prime meridian std.
55. Skillful triumph or feat: 3 mots
58. Motor City org.
59. Stars sci.
60. Fort _, Florida
62. "From _ _ You" by The Beatles
63. Plains animal
64. Sky bear
65. Ship's front
66. Watchful
67. _. _. (Fargo's locale)

DOWN

1. Mr. Rathbone of classic movies
2. Make merry
3. Persevere: 2 wds.
4. Above Level link
5. Stretch one's neck for a better look
6. _ & The Daytonas (Surfer music band)
7. National Historic Site of Canada... Grassy homestead attraction in Saskatchewan: 3 wds.
8. Obsession, _ fixe
9. Streetside sandwich sort
10. Bicycle wheel parts
11. Void, in Venice
12. "Over the Rainbow" co-composer Harold
13. Beach: Spanish
18. Cape Breton hometown of The Rankin Family
22. Frothy quaffs
27. Married title
29. Leavin'
30. _ um die Welt (Around the world, in German)
31. Not many
32. Prefix with 'dermis'
33. Wheat _
34. Des Moines locale
35. Beach supervisor
36. Quebec tap fluid
37. Final amt.
40. Backwards
42. Blend
43. Archaic anesthetic
44. Pushcart, perhaps loaded with earth or gravel
46. Certain collectible
47. Grass sprayer
48. _ _ lunch (Not on the ball)
50. Great enthusiasm [var. sp.]
51. Fragrance
53. Dip for tortillas
54. Fine-tune
56. "Prometheus" (2012) star Idris
57. Tank
61. Horse coat hue

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You will be impatient of restriction and intolerant of people who don't live up to your expectations. But be careful who you clash with — you could make some powerful enemies.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Be careful how hard you push yourself today because there is a possibility you might strain yourself if you take on too much. Know what your limits are and stay within them.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
The Sun in Libra does wonders for your confidence but other aspects warn you could easily overextend yourself. You have what it takes to win big but first you need to be aware of your shortcomings.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Mars encourages you to say things you may later regret. If you want to avoid unpleasant scenes further down the line you must not lose your temper.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Make sure you think before you speak or act today. Don't assume that because something is amusing to you it will be amusing to everyone else. Practical jokes are a no-no.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Because you are usually such a modest individual it will come as a surprise to some when you reveal your aggressive side today. If you are not getting what you deserve, make a scene. It will be effective.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will clash with someone whose views and opinions you disagree with. Don't back down. It is unlikely you will find common ground, so go all out to win the argument.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
It's not often that you get up in front of other people and lay down the law but you will do so today. It annoys you to think that the answer to a major problem is obvious to you but no one else seems able to see it.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The time is ripe to make a play for power. It is, of course, possible that you will go too far or expect too much but rather that than you make no effort at all.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will react badly to anyone who tries to tell you what to do, even if they have every right to point out your failings or point out the way. Try not to be quite so aggressive.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If you make a mistake today it is sure to be a big one. Don't try to cover it up or shift the blame as that will make matters worse. Everyone gets it wrong now and again, even an Aquarius. It's no big deal.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Plan something enjoyable for the weekend, something that takes you out of yourself. Forget about your woes and have a really good time with your friends or your family.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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The strongest cover glass on any smartphone.

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